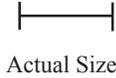


FUNGUS GNATS AND MARCH FLIES



Fungus Gnat



March Fly



GENERAL INFORMATION

Fungus gnats and March flies occasionally cause considerable concern when they are found in or about the house, patio, or lawn in large numbers. The fungus gnats may resemble small mosquitoes but neither they nor March flies can "bite." Their status as a pest here is mainly only as a nuisance.

FUNGUS GNATS (*Mycetophilidae & Sciaridae*):

These small (1/8"-3/8") dark flies are found here throughout the year where they inhabit damp, decaying organic matter such as leaf mold, manure, and organic fertilizers and mulches where the larvae feed, especially on fungus growth. Occasionally they may be found breeding within planter boxes for house plants where the moisture favors them. Only in commercial mushroom beds are they usually a potential economic pest. The larvae of the various species are mostly whitish, slender maggots dark heads. Development from the egg stage to the adult gnat usually takes two to four weeks. The adults are often attracted to lights at night.

MARCHFLIES (*Bibionidae*):

These dark colored flies (1/4") are usually most common in the spring and early summer. They, like fungus gnats, are primarily scavenger feeders as maggots or larvae in the soil or turf with moist, decaying organic matter from which adults are lazy fliers, often staying close to the ground. They may feed on the nectar of flowers.

CONTROL

Control is not usually warranted. Keeping doors closed and windows tightly screened will help. The flies may

enter homes where lights attract them. Where killing the gnats or flies is desired inside buildings, the usual fly space sprays may be used.

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This information is provided to help homeowners with their pest problems. Insecticides may be purchased at nurseries, hardware, farm supply, and pet stores. If additional help is needed, contact with a licensed pest control operator is suggested.

No endorsement of trade names or products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not mentioned.

PRECAUTIONS

1. Handle insecticides with care and follow instructions on the label.
2. Do not use around open flame or exposed foods, and always clean food preparation areas after the use of pesticides.
3. Store out of reach of children and pets, preferably in locked cabinets.
4. Never keep pesticides in anything other than the original container.
5. Never reuse the pesticide container to store any other materials.
6. Dispose of all empty containers by placing them in the trash can for removal to the local disposal area.



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