



TIPS FOR GETTING RID OF GNATS

GNATS: Fungus gnats are small dark flies (about 1/8" in size) that look similar to mosquitoes and are often confused with fruit flies. They thrive in humid environments and breed in the damp soil of houseplants. The larvae are what causes damage by eating the roots, root hairs and stems. The symptoms of an infestation can be stunted plant growth, wilting, yellowing leaves and rotting roots. The adults feed on fungi at the top of the soil (where they lay their eggs) while the larvae feeds on the roots. Here is a collection of remedies to get them out of your house along with some tips for trying to control them.

DRY THEM OUT: Allow the soil to dry very well to the point that your plant starts to wilt before watering again. It needs to get this dry (approx. the top 1-2 inches of soil is completely dry) so that the larvae in the soil will dry up completely (ending their cycle), the adults cannot breed in the dry soil so the cycle ends.

STICKY TRAPS: You can purchase yellow sticky cards for houseplants with the purpose of indoor insect control; these will work with fungus gnats. The idea is that the yellow color will attract them and when they come to investigate, they will be stuck or trapped by the sticky substance on the card. Available in our garden centre.

KILLER SOAP SPRAY RECIPE: Mix 2 TBSP Ivory liquid soap or lemon dish detergent with 1 gallon water, use this water to drench the soil that is hosting them. After about an hour, lightly spray the leaves with clear water to rinse the soap off.

DIY TRAP: Pour 1-2 tbsp of apple cider vinegar into a small cup, top with water. Leave the cup near the plant with the problem. They will be attracted to the vinegar and will be killed by drowning.

PREVENTION: To prevent another infestation, reduce watering as gnats are usually a sign of over-watering. Also make sure to remove any water from the saucer underneath the pot. Make sure the soil is dry between watering. Remove fallen leaves and plant debris so there's no organic matter resting on the soil to attract them to feed on.

