

Fungus Gnats

Rachael Boyle
Phillips-Rooks District Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Do you have small insects flying around your home? They may be coming from your houseplant's soil. Fungus gnats are small insects (1/8 to 1/10 inch long) that are common in high organic matter houseplant soils that are kept moist. Though adults are mosquito-like in appearance, they do not bother humans or pets. The larvae or maggots can injure plants by feeding on the roots. Symptoms include sudden wilting, loss of vigor, poor growth and yellowing leaves. Use of sterile media and avoiding overwatering can help prevent infestations. Existing infestations can be controlled by *Bacillus thuringiensis v. israelensis*, which is sold under the names of Gnatrol and Knock-Out Gnats. For more information, please contact the local K-State Research and Extension Office.

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