



PEST OF THE MONTH

October

Fungus Gnat

Fungus Gnats live in damp moist soil where they feed on new, still weak plants or chew on the roots of plants. Bacteria and diseases can enter plants much easier through damaged plant parts which can cause plants to die. The growth can also be affected on plants as fungus gnats attack the plant.

Fungus Gnats are most commonly found in mushroom productions and in house plants. They are dark in color and average 5mm long.

Hypoaspis are an excellent biological treatment for fungus gnats. Hypoaspis are predatory mites that live in the top layer of the soil and feed on different stages of harmful insects and mites such as fungus gnats and thrips pupae. Hypoaspis are sold in peat mixtures that can be easily spread on the top of the soil of potted plants without any trouble. Fungus gnats can appear with new soil, so it is best to introduce Hypoaspis when re-potting plants as a preventative, as well as twice a year.

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