



## COMMAND PEST CONTROL

### Information sheet number 37 - The Fungus Gnat



#### **Appearance:**

Adults are about (3-4 mm) long, grey to blackish in colour

#### **Breeding:**

Fungus gnats develop through complete metamorphosis: egg; larva; pupa; and adult. Each female can lay up to 200 eggs and larval development occurs in 2 to 4 weeks.

#### **Food:**

Adult fungus gnats are attracted to moist, organically rich soil and any rotting medium which includes stagnant water or wet floors below shower cubicles or baths.

#### **Where do Fungus gnats live?**

In houseplants the presence of fungus gnats may indicate overwatering. They may be feeding on roots that have sat in drain water too long and are rotting or may be attracted to fungus growing in saturated top soil. Typically draining the excess water from the plants drain pan and allowing the soil to dry will eliminate them. Fungus gnats are typically harmless to healthy plants.

#### **Diseases and damage:**

No disease is attributed to these flies but they might carry pathogens because of where they live and the medium they breed in. They are possibly mechanical carriers of disease organisms.

**For more advice and control recommendations contact us on 01787 248049**