



Indoor Plants – Insect Management

Proper placement, proper watering, and keeping plants clean are the best preventatives of insect infestations. Always identify the insect, disease or issue before determining a course of action. The most common interior pests are: spider mites, mealy bugs and scales, fungus gnats.

Spider Mites	
Symptoms	Treatment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decreased water absorption• Webbing in new growth• Small, yellow needle-like marks on leaves	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove the plant to a place it can be sprayed with an organic insecticide (such as Pharm Solution or Hot Pepper Wax) until it is dripping off the plant.• Using sponges, a rag or a product such as Plant Paws™, wipe the entire plant thoroughly.• Lightly spray the plant again and let it dry.
Mealy Bugs and Scale	
Symptoms	Treatment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decreased water absorption• Webbing in new growth• Small, yellow needle-like marks on leaves	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove the plant to a place it can be sprayed with an organic insecticide (such as Pharm Solution or Hot Pepper Wax) until it is dripping off the plant.• Using plant paws, sponges or a rag, wipe the entire plant thoroughly.• Lightly spray the plant again and let it dry.
Fungus Gnats	
Symptoms	Treatment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plant too wet• Gnats teeming within six feet of host plant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Place yellow sticky cards to determine which plants are infected.• Remove top 2” soil.• Place a thin layer of Diatomaceous earth on the soil and work it in.• Replace the soil removed with <i>horticultural</i> sand.

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