



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.

UCCE Orange County Master Gardeners

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