



PREDATORY INSECTS

Hypoaspis Mites

Hypoaspis mites are a fairly large predatory mite that target fungus gnats in the soil. Hypoaspis mites can consume up to 8 small fungus gnats per day.

These predatory mites establish themselves in the soil in various root environments and other growing media, including potting compost and rock wool.

They are especially fond of dark, damp places and are not highly tolerant of dry conditions. Hypoaspis mites can move quite rapidly, and the depth at which they are found in the soil depends on humidity, type and how compact it is.

The body and legs of this mite are brown, whilst the jaws are darker brown. The females are larger than the males and can be as long as 1 mm, and have a visible white stripe on the terminal body segment. The eggs, larvae and first nymph stages are white, with nymphs becoming light brown as they age.

Hypoaspis mites have a long lifespan and can survive for some time without food. Adults can survive 3-4 weeks without food, and much longer if they have fed adequately beforehand.

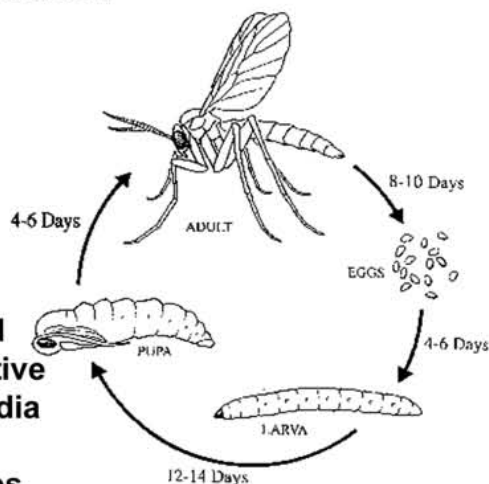
However in the absence of food, egg-laying ceases.

It can possibly take several weeks (depending on the introduction rate) until the Hypoaspis is established in the soil.

Fungus Gnats – Adults are small dark flies with long, slender antennae and long legs. Damage to plants is caused by the long and translucent white larva, which has a distinctive black head. Larvae feed on dead material in the growing media and also on living material such as roots and stalk tissue. Damaged plant tissues are then susceptible to plant diseases such as Pythium, Phytophthora, Fusarium, and Verticillium.



hypoaspis Mites
(Fungus Gnat Predator)



Fungus Gnat Life Cycle