

MIDGES

Non-Biting *Chironomids*

Non-biting midges are small flying insects that closely resemble mosquitoes. These insects are no threat to pets or people. In large numbers, midges can impact the local industries, agriculture, and can be a significant nuisance to people. However, they are an important factor in the food chain for local and migratory ducks, geese and other large aquatic birds.

Midges are commonly known as “blind mosquitoes” because they are mosquito-like but do not bite. Male midges form large swarms when the temperature, humidity, and light conditions are just right for the species. Each midge species swarm under different environmental conditions and usually only during specific times of the day. When more than one type of midge is present in a neighborhood, there may be the appearance of having swarms around all the time.

Control-

Finding and eliminating the sources of midge larvae should be the first consideration when you have a problem. Look for habitats where they develop, such as: over lakes, water reservoirs, open water where vegetation is attached, and during the summertime where water frontage is close to buildings and homes. Also, if possible, use ditches to drain away areas of standing water, and try to eliminate unnecessary lighting during the evening.

Beneficial Aspects-

Midges are an essential food source for fish and other aquatic insects. Chironomid midges are important organisms in aquatic habitats. Larvae “clean” the aquatic environment by consuming and recycling organic debris...

