

## Biological Control Kills Mosquitoes & Fungus Gnats

An environmentally sound biological insect control kills mosquito larvae long before they can become biting, disease-carrying pests. Mosquito Bits® contain a highly selective microbial insecticide that targets mosquito larvae right where they live. When spread on standing water where mosquitoes breed, Mosquito Bits® granules release a biological mosquito larvicide at the water's surface. As the Mosquito Bits® settle in the water, hungry mosquito larvae eat the Bits and die within 24 hours.

The active ingredient in Mosquito Bits® is a biological larvicide called B.t.i. (*Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *israelensis*).

B.t.i. is a naturally occurring bacterium that is deadly to mosquito larvae but harmless to other living things.

Mosquito Bits® are designed to provide quick kills of large populations of mosquito larvae. Mosquito Bits® can be used in virtually all standing water including ponds and water gardens, rain barrels, roof gutters, bird baths, flower pots and saucers, tree holes, old automobile tires, animal watering troughs and wherever water collects. Mosquitoes only need a thimble full of water to reproduce, so don't forget to treat your bromeliads and pitcher plants and to put a teaspoon in your EarthBox® or other self-watering planter reservoirs. Mosquito Bits® are also effective in grassy or marshy areas and where the mosquito population is extremely dense and a quick kill is needed.

Just sprinkle one teaspoon of Mosquito Bits® per 25 square feet of water surface area or one tablespoon per 75 square feet. Mosquito Bits® will kill mosquito larvae for seven to 14 days. Additional applications of Mosquito Bits® should be made in seven- to 14-day intervals for continued mosquito control.

Now Mosquito Bits® are labeled and approved for control of fungus gnat larvae. Fungus gnats are in the same family as mosquitoes and Mosquito Bits® can safely and effectively control fungus gnats in all your potted plants. Simply sprinkle over the surface of the soil and water in. Or, make a drench by soaking 2 tablespoons of Mosquito Bits® per 1/2 gallon of water. Wait five minutes then apply treated water directly to soil surface, discard granules when finished. Treat once per week for 3 weeks to break the fungus gnat life cycle. Harmless to people, plants, and pets, Mosquito Bits® can be used on both ornamental and vegetable plants and will effectively eliminate the fungus gnat larvae that grow in the potting soil.



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## Buzz Off: A Quick Quiz About Mosquitoes

Everyone knows all about mosquitoes, right? Well, maybe not. Most of us know how pesky the little buzzers are, and how itchy and bothersome their bites can be. With the spread of West Nile virus throughout the USA in recent years, we even know that mosquitoes are potentially lethal disease carriers.

But that's just the beginning. To test your Mosquito I.Q., take the simple true-false test below.

### True or False?

1. All mosquitoes bite
2. When a mosquito bites, it's after your blood.
3. Mosquitoes are attracted to odors.
4. The itch of a mosquito bite is caused by mosquito venom.
5. Humans are the only animals affected by mosquitoes
6. You can only control mosquitoes with dangerous chemicals.

### Answers:

1. False. Only the female mosquitoes bite.
2. True. Female mosquitoes require a meal of blood in order to develop eggs to make more little mosquitoes.
3. True. Mosquitoes are also attracted to body warmth, moisture, and the carbon dioxide we exhale.
4. False. When she bites, a mosquito injects a bit of saliva that slows coagulation so the victim's blood flows freely. It's your body's allergic reaction to the mosquito saliva that causes the pesky welt and the bothersome itching.
5. False. Unfortunately, mosquitoes are a danger to many other animals. In horses, they are known to transmit Eastern and Western Equine Encephalitis. With dogs and cats, mosquitoes that bite infected animals can spread heartworm larvae to other, healthy dogs and cats. A study from the National Breeding Bird survey suggests that with many types of birds, including some of our favorite songbirds, mosquito spread West Nile Virus have caused population declines of up to 45% since the introduction of West Nile Virus in 1999.
6. False. Although at this time chemical insecticides are the only weapon against adult mosquitoes, to safely and effectively kill mosquito larvae before they can become flying, biting, disease-spreading adults, use a biological control called B.t.i. (*Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *israelensis*). Mosquito larvae that feed on products that contain B.t.i., such as Mosquito Dunks® and Mosquito Bits®, will die before they become adults.



***Mosquito Bits kill mosquito larvae before they can become flying, biting, disease-spreading adults.***