

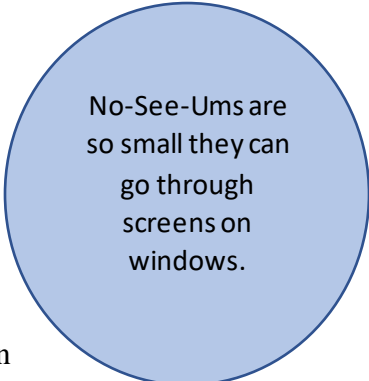
No-see-ums (AKA Biting Gnats)

By Deborah Birge, Fort Bend Master Gardener

Q: What's Biting Me?

Many Fort Bend residents are complaining of biting gnats. Some call them No-see-ums but you can certainly Feel-um and their painful bite! The gnats swarm the head and neck leaving large itchy whelps. Well, they are not gnats at all. They are a species of black fly.

A quick solution is to wear long sleeves and pants, hat and with a bug net that covers your head and neck. If you don't have a net any product with DEET will keep them at bay. Some have reported success with Avon Skin so Soft, Coleman Skin Smart, Deep Woods Off, Sawyer picaridin repellent, and Cutter Backwoods. Additionally, some local reports indicate that herbal and essential oil-based repellents work well, although there is no research to support it. For more information, <https://fortbend.agrilife.org/recent-outbreak-of-biting-flies/> .



No-See-Ums are so small they can go through screens on windows.