



**FAQ 11. There are a lot of biting flies, gnats, ticks, and other flying insects around my house or yard that I don't like. Can't Mosquito Control do something about them?**

While the Mosquito Control Section frequently receives calls for help not related to mosquito problems, **unfortunately the answer here is NO**. By our enabling State statute, for pest management purposes we are charged with and only allowed to take actions that control mosquitoes. Given the varied and vast amounts of mosquito-breeding habitats in Delaware and the long flight ranges of some mosquito species, plus the State's high human population density, coupled with the intolerable quality-of-life and human health threats that severe mosquito infestations can cause, our just battling mosquitoes gives us plenty to do. Our trying to attend to any other pest problems would be beyond our capabilities in terms of time, staffing, budget or other resources, and legally not in our authority.

We recommend that for many non-mosquito pest problems a first point-of-contact be the **University of Delaware Cooperative Extension Service**, with the Extension Service having offices in all 3 counties. Expert agents in the Cooperative Extension Service can give you advice about how to handle that wasp or hornet problem, or how to lessen biting fly problems. If you bring in the tick that you found crawling in your bed or that you pulled off your leg, or a specimen of any other type of unknown insect, spider, or invertebrate critter of interest that you might have in-hand, they can usually have it identified for you. The Extension Service is also the place to call for questions about garden or ornamental plant pests, as well as agricultural crop pests. The Extension Service phone number to call in **New Castle County** is **302-831-2506**; for **Kent County** call **302-730-4000**; for **Sussex County** call **302-856-7303**.

For additional questions related to agricultural, forest or ornamental plant pests, including concerns about gypsy moths, one can call the **Delaware Department of Agriculture** offices in Dover at **302-698-4500**. For wildlife-oriented pest problems or rabies, we suggest that you start by calling our Division's **Wildlife Section**, with offices in Dover at **302-739-9912**. You might have to call upon the professional services of a **commercial exterminator or pest control company**, who should know what to do and how to get it done safely.