



LAKE COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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Nonbiting Midges, “Rice flies” or Chironomid midges *Chironomus* spp. Family Chironomidae (Midges)



Adult Chironomid Midge



Pupa

Midge Larva

Although it closely resembles a mosquito, this insect cannot bite. It is most commonly seen resting on walls of buildings near Clear Lake or near dawn and dusk when the adults form large mating swarms that may be more than a hundred feet long and three stories high! The bright red larvae live in the mud at the bottom of Clear Lake, and emerge as non-feeding adults that live for about 2 days. The adults die so quickly—and new adults emerge daily—that spraying for the adults provides no control.



Chironomid midges form large swarms, but they cannot bite. They are often seen resting on buildings and can be a nuisance, particularly when they fill spider webs and “decorate” our homes. The adults live for just 2 days.

For more information about nonbiting midges or other Lake County insects, please contact Lake County Vector Control District: 263-4770 www.lcvcd.org