

Mosquito Lowdown...

1. Mosquitoes cause more human suffering than any other organism with more than one million people dying from mosquito-borne diseases each year.
2. There are about 200 species of mosquitoes in the United States.
3. Mosquitoes are capable of transmitting diseases such as malaria, yellow fever, dengue, filariasis and encephalitis (several varieties, including West Nile Virus).
4. Only female mosquitoes require a blood meal (protein) and bite animals - warm or cold blooded - and birds. Humans are seldom first or second choices. Most mosquitoes prefer horses, cattle and smaller mammals.
5. Stimuli that influence biting include a combination of carbon dioxide, temperature, moisture, smell, color and movement.
6. Most mosquitoes prefer to search for a blood meal at dusk, in the shade during the day, in the evening hours and after dark.

Who's at Risk?

1. The very young.
2. Adults over the age of 50.
3. People with weakened immune systems.
4. Pregnant women (They are twice as attractive to mosquitoes as non-pregnant women!).
5. Dogs (Heartworm disease is spread by mosquitoes).
6. Horses.

A mosquito's life style contains 4 stages; the first three stages of life (egg, larva, and pupa) are carried out in standing water. Thus, prevention is key!

Get Rid of Mosquitoes Before They Appear and Prevent Breeding

1. Do not allow standing water to accumulate for more than two days. Check old tires, buckets, bases of flower pots, pet dishes, plastic covers and any other container that may collect water.
2. Change the water in birdbaths, fountains and wading pools at least once a week.
3. Clean debris from rain gutters and remove standing water under or around structures.
4. Check rain barrels for mosquito larvae. A tight cover will prevent egg laying. A thin layer of oil will kill mosquitoes already present.
5. Repair leaks or clear away puddles from around faucets and window air conditioners.
6. Stock ornamental pools with minnows or goldfish, they eat mosquito larvae on the water surface.
7. Fill or drain large puddles, ditches and swampy areas.
8. Remove, drain or fill tree holes and stumps with mortar.
9. Keep hedges and bushes trimmed to reduce shade.
10. Mow the lawn at least once a week. Mosquitoes can hide in the shade of tall grass.
11. Make sure windows, doors and porches are tightly screened and are free of holes.

Mosquito Management...

1. Cut down on the number of areas where adult mosquitoes can find shelter such as high grass and weeds.
2. Apply mosquito insecticides to the lower limbs of shade trees, shrubs and other vegetation.
3. Paying particular attention to shady areas, apply the insecticide on vegetation, walls and other potential mosquito resting areas.