

Bet You Didn't Know

These Amazing Mosquito Facts

“*Mosquito*” - the name is Spanish for “little fly”. There are 3,000 different kinds of mosquitoes and a world-wide population of over 100 trillion.

Most are tropical. But, there are mosquitoes in the arctic regions, in the deserts, and probably near your home. They can fly up to 10 mph, dart between raindrops, even fly backwards. Most live and die close to where they were hatched, but some are strong flyers that travel many miles in search of a victim.

Only female mosquitoes bite. They require a “blood meal” in order to develop eggs to make more mosquitoes. Most female mosquitoes lay their eggs on standing water. Stagnant ponds, ditches, and fresh or saltwater wetlands are favorites. But, even a few tablespoons of water in a flower pot or old tire will do.

The eggs hatch, become swimming larvae, then pupae and finally flying adults. Mosquitoes larvae are an important source of food for certain fish and flying adults are eaten by birds, bats, and other animals. To humans and domestic animals, mosquitoes are strictly a nuisance and a health hazard, transmitting a variety of diseases.

In their quest for blood, mosquitoes may bite birds, frogs, snakes and mammals, including people. *Peridomestic* mosquitoes actually live and breed around homes just to be near us. 24 hours after they hatch, a female will fly off in search of a meal. She hones in on body warmth, odor, moisture and the carbon dioxide we exhale.

When she bites, she injects a bit of saliva that slows coagulation so blood flows freely. It's your bodies allergic reaction to the saliva that causes the welt and the itch later on.

Mosquitoes also transmit canine heartworm, fatal to dogs once contracted. Pet owners can purchase a preventive medicine from a veterinarian.

Personal Protection

The following are suggestion to help reduce your exposure to mosquitoes:

- Ensure all doors and windows fit properly, and are equipped with tight fitting, fine mesh screen.
- White light colored, loose fitting, long sleeved shirt and pants.
- Minimize outdoor activity during sunrise and sunset when mosquitoes are most active. Mosquitoes can be found in tall grass, bushes, and moist vegetation during the day.
- Equip baby carriages and strollers with fine mesh netting to protect infants.
- Use insect repellent on ankles, wrists, neck and ears, avoid areas around eyes, nose and mouth. **DO NOT** use on cuts, scrapes or on infants or pets.

For more information:

How to use insect repellents safely:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/mosquitoes/insectrp.htm>

Eliminate mosquito breeding sites:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/qa/prevention.htm>

Facts about West Nile Virus:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>

Or contact us:

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Homeowners Guide

Mosquito Control



provided by

Southwest Nebraska
Public Health Department

Homeowner Control Tips

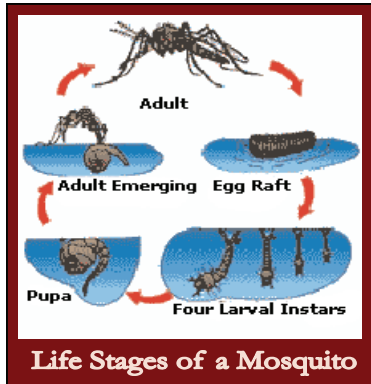
Mosquitoes are an all too familiar summer nuisance. They are not only annoying, but they present potential health hazards as transmitters of such diseases as encephalitis, malaria, and yellow fever in humans, and heartworm to pets. There are positive steps you, the homeowner, can take to reduce the menace since many generations of mosquitoes can breed right in your own yard.

Spray mosquito roosting areas. Follow a regular spraying program. Spray where mosquitoes rest during the heat of the day - in the cool leafy shade of shrubs, bushes, vines, flowers and tall grass and weeds. Also spray sheltered surfaces outside the home such as roof eaves, breezeways, garages and the ceilings and screens of porches.

Eliminate potential breeding grounds around your home and spray where adult mosquitoes hide will certainly help reduce the mosquito menace around your property.

Several biological insecticides are also available to control immature mosquitoes in aquatic habitats.

The elimination or control of mosquito populations will result in increasing your enjoyment of outdoor summer living.



Where To Find Mosquito Larvae in Your Yard

Many mosquito problems in your neighborhood are a result of water-filled containers which you can easily eliminate.

Can you find the locations where mosquitoes can develop?



Answers: Under the deck, by the garage, wading pool, canoe, paint can, tire, toy truck, flower planters, flower pot, rain barrel, eaves-trough, dog house roof, tall grass, watering can, ashtray, and drink can.

How to Eliminate Standing Water

- Store inside, turn over or empty containers
- Change pet water regularly
- Change and clean bird baths weekly
- Empty water from potted plant saucers
- Cover rain barrels with screen
- Store tires inside (or take to recycling depot)
- Keep rain gutters free of debris
- Cover boats or allow to drain
- Maintain pool water or drain
- Repair leaky outdoor faucets



Are You Raising Mosquitoes?

You Should .. Get rid of old tires, cans, bottles, jars, buckets, drums, or other containers, or keep them drained. Standing water in clogged gutters can also raise mosquitoes.

You Should.. Empty your small toddler-size plastic wading pool weekly and store it indoors when not in use. Make sure your backyard swimming pool is properly cared for while on vacation.

You Should.. Repair leaky pipes, outside faucets, and move air conditioner drain hoses frequently. Eliminate puddles created by lawn watering procedures.

You Should.. Change water and scrub vases holding flowers or cuttings twice each week - or grow cuttings in sand; scrub and change water in bird baths twice weekly; empty watering cans and pet dishes daily.

