

MOSQUITO CONTROL MEASURES



Mosquitoes can spread diseases to animals and people. Control programs should focus on decreasing their numbers to minimize the risk of disease spread to you and your animals.

Control of Mosquito Egg Laying Sites

- This is the best way to control mosquitoes since they lay eggs in specific areas and these areas can be managed.
 - Add drainage holes to structures and containers that may trap water (barrels, old tires).
 - Change or circulate the water in stock tanks, pet bowls and bird-baths at least once a week.
 - Drain tarps and covers of collected rainwater after a rain (i.e. silage covers).
 - Pick up and properly dispose of all trash, especially anything that could hold water.
 - Thin out weeds and remove old leaves from ponds. This will allow natural mosquito-eating fish to easily access areas where mosquitoes lay their eggs.
 - Grade areas where road ruts, potholes and hoofprints exist (around stock tanks, ponds).
 - Grade newly developed land to prevent standing water. These areas create areas for mosquitoes to lay eggs.
 - Fill tree holes with sand, mortar or place drainage holes to prevent standing water.
 - Clean roof gutters to prevent them from becoming clogged and holding water.
- The use of pesticides should only be supplemental to controlling mosquitoes through the reduction and management of mosquito egg laying areas.
 - Do not apply pesticides to moving water (i.e. streams).
 - Products labeled only for home and garden mosquito larval control may be used. Follow all label directions.
 - Non-chemical pesticides can be used.
 - **Always follow all label directions**
 - BTI (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*) pronounced ba-SILL-us THUR-in-GEN-sus IZ-real-EN-sus.
 - BTI granules can be spread over an area of pasture that is flood-prone. Use at the beginning of the mosquito season and re-apply in the middle of the season.
 - BTI dunks can be used to treat stock tanks. One dunk can treat up to 100 square feet of water surface and can last up to 30 days.
 - Methoprene products can be used to treat areas that collect water. These include bird baths, urns, old tires, flower pots, abandoned swimming pools, etc.
 - The use of pesticides should only be supplemental to controlling mosquitoes through the reduction and management of mosquito egg laying sites.
 - Individuals may use hand-held Ultra Low Volume foggers, portable or fogging attachments for tractors or lawn mowers.
 - Pyrethrin or 5% malathion can be fogged outdoors. Follow all label directions.
 - Contact your local extension agent for assistance in developing a mosquito management plan.

Personal Protection

- Protect yourself against mosquitoes.
- When outside, wear long pants and long sleeves to cover skin.
- Use insect repellants on exposed skin. Repellants with DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) are the most effective.
- DEET is an insect repellent that is safe to use on people but **not** on pets.
- Make sure screens on windows and doors are in good repair.

It is a violation of state and federal law to use a pesticide in any manner that differs from the product label. Use only according to label directions to avoid meat or milk residue hazards, environmental damage, and animal or human injury.

Control of Mosquito Larvae ("wigglers")

- Check with your local extension office or department of pest management to determine which pesticides are approved for use in your area.
- This is the least efficient way to control mosquitoes.
- Special equipment is needed to apply pesticides to kill adult mosquitoes (adulticides). Small droplets are produced that drift through the air and contact adult mosquitoes to kill them.
- Check with your local extension office or department of pest management to determine which pesticides are approved for use in your area.

Mosquito References:

Lawler SP, Lanzaro GC. Managing Mosquitoes on the Farm. Department of Entomology, University of California, Davis. <http://axp.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PDF/MOSQ/mosquitoesonfarm.pdf>

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Stringham M, Watson W. Managing Waste Lagoons to Control Mosquito Breeding. North Carolina State University Department of Entomology. <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/MedVet/wnv-manage.htm>

Larvicides for Mosquito Control. United States Environmental Protection Agency. <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/mosquitoes/larvicides4mosquitoes.htm>