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Home Mosquito Control

Here are some helpful hints in control of mosquitos around the home. It is important to get rid of possible breeding sites to avoid a yard full of biting mosquitos.

The single most important thing you can do to help manage mosquito populations is to manage standing water. Mosquitos can breed in any standing water, but they are particularly drawn to standing water with lots of organic debris and mosquitos can breed in as little as one inch of standing water.

Standing Water

- Remove or turn over all water-holding containers (flowerpots, plastic jugs, buckets, etc.) around your yard.
- Remove discarded tires from your property. Drill holes in the bottom of tires used for swings or other playground equipment so water cannot collect in them.
- Drill holes in the bottom of any unused containers so water won't collect or store indoors.
- Turn over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use.
- Eliminate any standing water that collects on your property.

Roofs and Gutters

- Clear leaves, twigs and tree debris from roofs and gutters. Clogged gutters and downspouts can leave pooled water.
- Check flat roofs frequently and remove any standing water.

Around the Yard

- Keep you grass cut - remove dense brush and weeds where mosquitoes rest and hide during the day. Mosquitos like to rest in tall grass or among shrubs in a moist, shady spot.
- Turn over compost piles on a regular basis.
- Fill in any low depression/rut areas that collect and hold water.

- Immediately remove raked leaves and other decaying items that fall from trees. If they are not to be composted, place them in a closed container/bag until disposal. An overturned leaf can hold enough water for a mosquito's eggs.

Bird Baths

- Change the water and clean birdbaths weekly. Cleaning the bath removes organic matter and changing the water removes any mosquito eggs or larvae.

Landscape Ponds

- If possible, locate ponds in an open space not sheltered from the wind. The wind may cause movement on the surface of the water that will deter female mosquitoes from laying their eggs there.
- Concrete, stone or plastic construction of the pond is preferable to soil sides and bottom. Soil provides organic matter, which becomes a source of food for the mosquito larvae; this makes the pond a more suitable site for breeding. Concrete, stone or plastic places a barrier between the organics in the soil and the water in the pond, lowering the potential food supply.
- Some fish are known to eat mosquito larvae and have been used to keep the number of larvae in a pool/pond at a minimum.
- Ensure ponds are maintained and all grass clippings, leaves and debris are removed. Debris supplies the food the larvae need to survive.
- Maintain the area surrounding the pond. Long grass and weeds along the edge of the pond protect the larvae from potential predators and make it easier for the mosquitos to lay eggs.

Swimming Pools

- When properly maintained, swimming pools provide a very poor mosquito-breeding site. They are too deep, have a circulation/filter system, are chlorinated and cleaned regularly. However, if allowed to sit idle and not maintained or operated, they can become a mosquito breeding area.
- If the pool cover is left on for an extended period, water and organic matter can collect. This creates a breeding site for mosquitoes.
- Remove the organic matter and water from the pool cover weekly and allow the cover to dry to kill mosquito larvae.

While there is no guarantee that cleaning up possible breeding sites will keep mosquitos away because they can breed elsewhere and fly into the yard. But most mosquitos feed within a few hundred yards of where they were hatched, so it will help to reduce the number of mosquitos in the immediate area.

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