

The Asian Tiger Mosquito

The Asian tiger mosquito is a very aggressive day-biting mosquito which has become a serious pest in parts of your county. It is a black mosquito with white stripes on the legs and a white stripe down the middle of its head and back. It is very aggressive and will bite whenever people or animals are available, but it is also skittish and hard to swat. Often, you will not feel it biting and it tends to stay near the ground (you may get bitten on the legs only).

This mosquito lays its eggs in containers or holes in trees. It is closely tied to human habitation and any container in your yard which will hold even a small amount of water for a week or more can breed the tiger mosquito.

Keeping this mosquito controlled in your area will take an organized community clean-up effort.

Please check your yard for water-holding containers such as:

- tires
- kiddie pools not in use
- buckets, barrels or cans
- wheelbarrows, canoes or boats
- tarps where water can puddle
- flower pots or saucers under pots

Either empty, store or rinse these containers out weekly. Don't forget rain gutters - these can breed large numbers of mosquitoes if not cleaned so that they flow.

The State's mosquito control program cannot adequately control this species due to its habits. It breeds in containers in people's yards which we cannot treat and nighttime spray operations are not very effective for the tiger mosquito because it rests in sheltered areas which the spray will not reach. If you want more information about the tiger mosquito, call your town office, or call the nearest mosquito control office.

Mosquito Control Section

Annapolis (Headquarters)	(410) 841-5870	Eastern Maryland	(410) 543-6626
Central & Western Maryland	(301) 422-5080	Southern Maryland	(301) 373-4263

Homeowner's Source Guide
for
Mosquito Larval Habitats
in
Artificial or Natural Containers
around the house



buckets
 cans
 bottles

toys, particularly plastic
 jars and their lids
 swimming or wading pools



tires

wheelbarrows

wagons

bird baths

cups

flower pots & saucers

blocked gutters



tree holes and roof holes

pet water bowls

trash cans without lids

trash can lids left upside down

flat roofs

boats & canoes

unused hot tubs

rain barrels

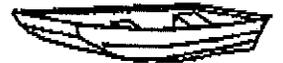
taps over wood piles or equipment

air conditioner drain areas

ceramic bowls/old toilet bowls & tubs

pipes in ground (upright)

plastic drain pipe



Most of our mosquito complaints during the summer months in urban or suburban areas are caused by mosquitoes coming from the above artificial and natural container sites. Use the "TIP OR TOSS" method to dispose of the standing water and/or the containers themselves. REMEMBER, only the homeowner can control these mosquitoes!

TAMING THE 'TIGER'

The Asian tiger mosquito has become a serious pest in parts of your county. It doesn't respond well to traditional mosquito control methods. Here are a few ways you can help tame the "tiger".

- Check your yard for any container that can hold water. The "tiger" lays its eggs in these sites and they hatch within a few days of being flooded. Even small containers such as drinking cups can produce mosquitoes. Remember to check gutters, too. If you find any water-holding containers, dispose of them or change water weekly. Keep gutters free of leaves and debris.
- Talk to your neighbors about the "tiger". Since the adults can fly 100 yards or so, your problem may be coming from containers in someone else's yard! Most people don't know what mosquito larvae look like or that they can breed in very small amounts of water. One tire with a few cups of water can breed hundreds of mosquitoes continuously throughout the warm months.
- Make sure screens are intact. Good screening on doors and windows will keep "tiger" outside.
- Spray sheltered areas in your yard with an insecticide labelled for adult mosquitoes if you cannot tolerate the annoyance caused by mosquito bites. "Tiger" adults rest in dark sheltered areas around your home such as under decks or porches, in thick or low-growing vegetation, or in outbuildings or sheds with gaps they can enter. Spraying these areas will keep the numbers of adults down in your yard. Read and follow all directions on the insecticide label.

The Asian tiger mosquito is an annoying pest in many areas but YOU are your own best defense! For more information on the "tiger", call your local mosquito control office.

SPRAYING FOR ASIAN TIGER MOSQUITOES*

- A. Find and eliminate all breeding sites - spray treatment will do no good if the source of the problem is still present. Look for containers holding water such as:

tires - potted plant saucers - plastic covers & tarps neglected toys - wading pools - clogged rain gutters - bird baths

B. Choosing a Pesticide

1. Once you have determined that you have Asian Tiger mosquitoes and you want to spray, you need to purchase the correct pesticide from a hardware store or a professional pest control agency.
 - 1) READ THE LABEL - Make sure that what you choose is labeled for treatment of mosquitoes.
 2. There are many different brand names that will work, but some of the active ingredients that you will find listed on the label which work well against Asian Tigers are:

Resmethrin
Permethrin
Pyrethrin

These are just suggestions - there are others that also work.

C. Applying the Pesticide

1. READ THE LABEL THOROUGHLY AND FOLLOW DIRECTIONS EXACTLY.
2. Adult Asian Tigers spend most of the time resting in bushes, ivy, tall grass, under decks, and in other shady, sheltered areas. Concentrate treatment in these areas.
3. Although they are active all day, Asian Tigers seem to be most active around dusk. Therefore, this is the best time to treat.

* These instructions are valid only if you have Asian Tiger mosquitoes.

What is West Nile Virus?

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West Nile virus (WNV) is a disease that is transmitted by mosquitoes. A number of viruses transmitted by mosquitoes are monitored by public health agencies in the United States. These include Eastern Equine Encephalitis, St. Louis Encephalitis, Western Equine Encephalitis, and LaCrosse Encephalitis viruses.

West Nile virus, which usually occurs in birds, was first identified in this country in the summer of 1999. A mosquito can pick up the virus when it feeds on an infected bird's blood. When the mosquito bites a person or animal, the virus is transmitted to the victim.

A mosquito that carries WNV also can infect birds, horses, and possibly other animals. As far as health authorities know at this time, a person cannot get WNV infection directly from birds, horses, or another person.

For most people who have been exposed to it, WNV causes no symptoms at all. In some people, WNV can cause a very mild infection, including fever, muscle aches, rash, swollen lymph nodes, and a "sick" feeling. This illness starts about 5-15 days after the mosquito bite, lasts a few days, and then goes away on its own.

In a very small fraction of people exposed to WNV, it can cause an inflammation of the brain (encephalitis) or the tissues that surround the brain (meningitis). Encephalitis and meningitis due to WNV can cause death.

MDA MOSQUITO CONTROL CP
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For more information

about mosquitoes, mosquito-borne diseases, or Maryland's mosquito control program contact:

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Mosquito Control Section

410-841-5870 (Annapolis)

1-877-425-6485 (Baltimore City and County)

410-543-6626 (Eastern Shore)

301-373-4263 (Southern Maryland)

301-927-8357 (Suburban and Western Maryland)

<http://www.mda.state.md.us>

*Use the following tips to rid your community
of mosquito breeding sites:*

- ✓ Clean rain gutters to allow water to flow freely.
- ✓ Remove old tires or drill drainage holes in tires used for playground equipment.
- ✓ Store plastic wading pools inside or turn them upside down when not in use.
- ✓ Turn over or remove clay pots and plastic containers.
- ✓ Dispose of all empty beverage containers, plastic wrappers, discarded toys, etc.
- ✓ Check for trapped water in plastic or canvas tarps used to cover boats, pools, etc. Arrange the tarp to drain the water.
- ✓ Pump out bilges in boats. Turn canoes and small boats upside down for storage.
- ✓ Replace water in bird baths at least twice a week.
- ✓ Remove pet food and water dishes that are not being used.
- ✓ Flush livestock water troughs twice a week.
- ✓ Don't leave garbage can lids lying upside down. Be sure water does not collect in the bottom of garbage cans.
- ✓ Flush water in the bottom of plant holders twice a week.
- ✓ Fix dripping outside water faucets.
- ✓ Turn wheelbarrows upside down when stored outside.
- ✓ Check around construction sites or do-it-yourself improvements to ensure proper backfilling and grading prevent drainage problems.
- ✓ Check ornamental ponds, tree holes and water-holding low areas for mosquito larvae. Call the nearest Mosquito Control Office (see below) if you find, or suspect, mosquito larvae are present.
- ✓ If ditches do not flow and contain stagnant water for one week or longer, they can produce large numbers of mosquitoes. Report such conditions to a Mosquito Control Office. Do not attempt to clear these ditches because they may be protected by wetland regulations.

**Maryland Department of Agriculture
Mosquito Control Offices**

Annapolis (Headquarters) (410) 841-5870
Central & Western Maryland (301) 422-5080
Eastern Maryland (410) 543-6626
Southern Maryland (301) 475-9123

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