

Control mosquito breeding sites to reduce risk of West Nile Virus

Mosquitoes are known carriers of many diseases including West Nile Virus. West Nile Virus is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Most people who become infected with West Nile Virus will have either no symptoms or only mild ones. However, on rare occasions, West Nile Virus infection can result in a severe and sometimes fatal illness.

Mosquito Control

A realistic reduction in mosquito populations can only be achieved using a strategy that would include both municipal and neighbourhood control strategies.

Many municipal governments have mosquito programs in place. However, there are several things you and your neighbours can do to help reduce mosquitoes around your home. The more homes in an area that address mosquito control, especially the removal of breeding sites, the greater the reduction in mosquito populations.

Control Breeding Sites

The first step is to address mosquito-breeding sites. This is anywhere that water is allowed to stand for 4-5 days, such as old tires, flowerpots, buckets and bottles. Fill in or drain any low places in your yard.



Keep drains, ditches, and culverts clean of weeds and trash so water will drain properly. Place a tight fitting screen on the top of rain barrels, and cover trash containers to keep out rainwater.

In areas where you are unable to remove standing water such as ponds and water gardens, (and the water is entirely contained on your property) the use of a larvicide such as AquaBac Biological Larvicide can be used to control larvae before they become adults. Since AquaBac affects only mosquito larvae, it can be used in fishponds, and won't adversely affect birds, pets or other wildlife.

Reduce Exposure To Adult Mosquitoes

The second step is to reduce the exposure to adult mosquitoes. This includes wearing protective clothing and avoiding spending time outdoors during peak mosquito activity, between dusk and dawn. When mosquitoes are present at outdoor activities, use an insect repellent containing DEET, such as Skinsations Mosquito Repellent by Cutter.

For more information about mosquito control and West Nile Virus, visit www.nobite.ca.

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