

NORTHWEST MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

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Mosquito Update

June 9, 2010

PRESENT CONTROL STATUS:

NUISANCE MOSQUITOES

Average rainfall in May was 1.52" above normal with spotty accumulations 1-2" higher throughout the District. This has resulted in multiple broods of nuisance floodwater mosquito (*Aedes vexans*) that have been at elevated levels since after the Memorial Day holiday. Low evening temperatures (< 60 degrees), weekly precipitation events, and windy conditions typically reduce biting floodwater mosquito activity and have also delayed us from engaging our night spraying operations. Floodwater mosquitoes have not been implicated as a serious threat for West Nile virus transmission to humans.

Crews continue treating water areas for the developing aquatic mosquito larvae with the insect growth regulator methoprene, Bti, or monomolecular films. Standing water from weekly rains keep accumulating and generating additional mosquito hatches making control difficult.

CULEX MOSQUITOES

Culex mosquito collections from gravid traps remain low due to cool evening temperatures and weekly rains flushing out stagnant water habitats of these mosquitoes. *Culex pipiens* is considered the primary mosquito responsible for transmitting West Nile virus to humans in Illinois. Residents of the District are advised to begin inspecting their properties for stagnant water filled containers that may produce these types of mosquitoes. Inspections throughout the District have detected significant numbers of *Culex* larvae from ditches and storm water detention ponds. Examples of mosquito production areas encountered by homeowners can be viewed at: http://www.nwmadil.com/breeding_sites1.htm.

Crews have been treating *Culex* production sites with Bacillus sphericus and Natular (spinosad) tablets in ditches, stormwater detention ponds, abandoned swimming pools, catch basins and other stagnant water habitats.

ADULTICIDING:

Night time spraying for the adult nuisance mosquitoes start as of 6/9/2010, weather permitting. The current spray schedule will be posted at: http://www.nwmadil.com/nitespry_map.html. Spraying will begin after sunset in the Townships of Barrington and Palatine. We will progress through our District on subsequent days based on numbers of mosquitoes in our surveillance traps.

MOSQUITO VIRUS SURVEILLANCE IN ILLINOIS

One mosquito sample (Gallatin County) has tested positive for WNV so far in Illinois. NWMAD will continue using both the VecTest and RAMP Arboviral tests for detection of West Nile virus in adult mosquito collections. All in-house arboviral testing will also be tested with RT-PCR via the Illinois Natural History Survey, DNR.

Mosquito batches testing positive for these viruses will be posted at the following website address:
<http://www.nwmadil.com/WNVTEST2010.htm>.

The Illinois Department of Public Health has reported that seven birds have been found infected with West Nile virus in Illinois (none from Cook County). More information about WNV can be found on the state's website: www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/wnv.htm or by calling 217-782-5830. The State's website also has other valuable resource links on WNV, pesticides and mosquito control.

NWMAD WEBSITE:

The NWMAD website (www.nwmadil.com) has additional information on homeowner mosquito control practices. This Mosquito Update newsletter is available at this site as well as information on the history of NWMAD, personnel contacts, mosquito information links, employment opportunities and mosquito spray schedules.

Report 10-day or longer standing water problem: http://www.nwmadil.com/water_source_rpt.htm

Report sick/dead birds or other animals: http://www.nwmadil.com/Dead_Birds.html or to the Cook County Department of Public Health at: (708) 492-2650

Check night time mosquito spraying schedules: http://www.nwmadil.com/nitespry_map.html

REDUCING THE RISK OF MOSQUITO BITES:

As temperatures increase avoid outdoor activity if possible from dusk to dawn when the mosquitoes bite the most. If you do go out wear light colored, loose fitting, protective clothing and insect repellent (always read label warnings and directions). Make sure mosquitoes do not enter homes through unscreened or broken doors or windows. Residents are encouraged not to create mosquito harborage or resting areas. Make sure tall grassy areas are trimmed and other unnecessary vegetation is cut back. If plants must be watered do so in the morning so the vegetation and soil has a chance to dry making it less attractive to mosquitoes. Empty any containers holding stagnating water for 7 days or longer like: tire casings, birdbaths, flowerpots and rain barrels that may produce mosquitoes. Neglected swimming pools may produce thousands of mosquitoes. Call the District to report large stagnant water areas that remain wet for more than 7 days.

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PLEASE FORWARD THIS INFORMATION TO APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.