

NORTHWEST MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

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Mosquito Update

August 28, 2009

PRESENT CONTROL STATUS:

NUISANCE MOSQUITO CONTROL

Rainfall August 16-21 is likely to produce a moderate number of floodwater mosquitoes (*Aedes vexans*) making their presence known around the 2nd of September if temperatures remain about the same. A significantly larger floodwater mosquito brood will be produced from rains August 26-28 (> 2.5 inches). Depending on temperature it is likely the latter floodwater emergence will make its appearance around the 8th of September.

Crews are treating floodwater areas with methoprene and MMFG.

CULEX MOSQUITOES

Culex mosquito numbers are remain low. **However, residents are still strongly advised to inspect & eliminate all stagnant water areas from their properties that may produce these mosquitoes every week through the months of July-September.** Any container that holds water and organic debris for greater than 7 days can produce many of these mosquitoes.

Stagnant water mosquito producing sites (detention/retention ponds, ditches, building foundations, catch basins, & other container sources) will be treated with the insect growth regulator methoprene (Altosid) and MMFG.

MOSQUITO VIRUS SURVEILLANCE IN ILLINOIS

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) reports: 22 counties with mosquitoes or birds testing positive for WNV. There are **NO** human cases of WNV and 156 WNV positive mosquito samples reported from Illinois. Thus far IDPH has only reported 9 birds infected with WNV.

NWMAD has tested (RAMP) 755 batches of mosquitoes for West Nile Virus. 36 WNV infected batches of mosquitoes have been collected in NWMAD gravid traps to date. Mosquito batches testing positive in the District are posted at the NWMAD website <http://www.nwmadil.com/VECTEST1.htm>.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

Thus far in 2009 West Nile virus activity in Illinois is very similar to 2008 at this same time period. In 2008 15 counties in Illinois had WNV activity, 200 WNV positive mosquito batches and 8 birds were reported infected in Illinois. NWMAD in 2008 had detected 40 infected batches of mosquitoes by the end of August. Additionally, in 2008 at this time there was one reported human WNV infection. Mean temperatures for August 2009 is

currently 1.4 degrees F cooler than in 2008. The only significant difference, thus far, between August 2008 and 2009 has been rainfall amounts (2008-0.2 inches, 2009-1.18 to 4.47 inches rainfall) in NWMAD. Past WNV years with frequent & significant rainfall in urbanized areas containing prolific, storm-water Culex production habitat (surface and underground) tended to decrease Culex mosquito abundance due to washouts of stagnant water habitat and immature mosquitoes. If the same holds true in 2009 WNV activity will remain low, unless, we have a warm & dry September to again increase Culex numbers. NOAA is currently predicting normal temperatures and precipitation for September.

ADULTICIDING (Night Spraying Operation):

Continuation of adulticiding is likely if virus activity continues to be demonstrated in the mosquito population or excessive nuisance mosquitoes are present; weather permitting.

Nightly spraying schedules can be viewed at the following website:

http://www.nwmadil.com/nitespry_map.html. Alternately, a recorded phone message describing our scheduled nighttime spray program can be reached at (847) 537-2306 and pressing “5” on your telephone keypad. More information regarding our Adulticiding program may be viewed at: [http://www.nwmadil.com/Night Spray info1.html](http://www.nwmadil.com/Night_Spray_info1.html)

REDUCING THE RISK OF MOSQUITO BITES:

Avoid outdoor activity if possible from dusk to dawn when the mosquitoes bite the most. If you do go out wear light colored 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 areas. Make sure tall grassy areas are trimmed and other 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 like tire casings, tarp covers, birdbaths, flower pots and barrels that may produce mosquitoes. Un-maintained swimming pools may produce thousands of mosquitoes. Call the District to report stagnant water areas that remain wet for more than 7 days. Additional mosquito avoidance/control practices may be found at the District’s website: www.nwmadil.com.

Mike Szyska
Director

PLEASE FORWARD THIS INFORMATION TO APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.