



Mosquito Control

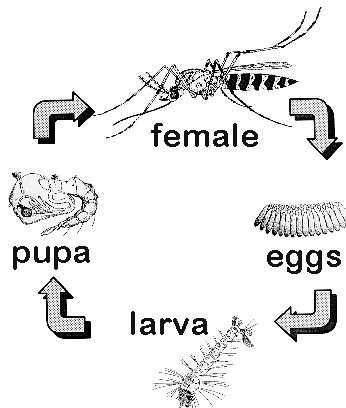
It is important to control mosquitoes from both the standpoint of disease control and nuisance control. There have been recent livestock and human disease outbreaks traced to Encephalitis transmitted by various mosquitoes in the State of Michigan. These outbreaks are usually limited in size and duration. However, some outbreaks have resulted in individual deaths.

In 1999 another mosquito borne disease, West Nile Virus, was encountered in New York City. Experts predict that this disease will be transported westerly, reaching Michigan.

The most immediate reason for controlling mosquitoes is that they are nuisances. Their bites are irritating and when they are out in large numbers, they make it impossible to enjoy outdoor activity. Even our sleep can be ruined by the high pitch whine of a persistent (and elusive) mosquito. Reducing their numbers not only makes outdoor activity enjoyable, it reduces the spread of mosquito transmitted diseases.

Life History of Mosquitoes

All mosquitoes require water to develop. The adult female lays her eggs in standing water or in areas that will flood. The eggs hatch into larvae and grow until they form a comma shaped pupa and emerge as a flying adult. Adult mosquitoes feed on nectar from flowers, but the female mosquito must also have a blood meal for her eggs to develop. It is during this biting stage that mosquitoes spread disease. A mosquito can develop from an egg to a biting adult in less than ten (10) days.



Personal Protection From Mosquitoes

- Keep mosquitoes out of the house by using 16-18 mesh screens on windows and doors.
- To avoid being bitten, wear long sleeve shirts and long pants when venturing into mosquito infested areas
- Use repellants containing DEET (N, N-diethyl-metatoluamide). WARNING: Read and follow label instructions when using repellants or pesticides. Children are more sensitive to chemicals, therefore, on children use only products approved for children.
- Citronella plants and electronic repellants have not been proven to be effective under normal use conditions. Even "bug-zappers" are of questionable value due to the fact that they may attract mosquitoes from other areas and many of the insects killed by zappers are actually beneficial.

Although some mosquitoes can fly miles searching for breeding sites, most mosquito problems are "home grown". With a little persistence and effort, the homeowner can minimize the nuisance and reduce the health threat posed by mosquitoes.