

What residents can do to reduce mosquito problems around their homes.

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Mosquitoes which reproduce in pastures, groves, wetlands and aquatic vegetation can migrate several miles from their breeding areas, making it difficult for the homeowner to have much impact on their control. Good screens, long sleeves, and repellants can give some relief from these insects. Electric or propane powered hand foggers can give some temporary control for those who want to spend some time in their yards while mosquitoes are active.

Residents can reduce mosquito numbers in their neighborhood by removing breeding sources around their homes. Water holding containers such as bird baths, pet water dishes, plant saucers, children's pools, boats, and junk such as old tires, and discarded appliances are ideal breeding spots for Asian Tiger Mosquitoes (possible vector of Dengue Fever), Yellow Fever Mosquitoes (Vector of Dengue Fever and Yellow Fever) and some *Culex* mosquitoes (Vector of some forms of Encephalitis). Removing these containers or periodically (2 to 3 times a week) changing water in them should eliminate problems from container breeding mosquitoes. Rain gutters, which have become clogged by leaves and other debris, also offer potential spots for the production of mosquitoes. Plants that hold water, for example, bromeliads, present excellent sites for mosquitoes to multiply. Mosquitoes in these plants can be controlled by home and garden insecticides available in most garden stores. Remember to read the label before purchase and use. Keeping swales clear of tall grass and debris, removing water filled tire ruts, and filling or leveling water-holding depressions in yards will meliorate some mosquito problems. For persistent flooded areas, Mosquito Dunks, which contain a bacterium, which attacks mosquito larvae, are available in many local hardware and garden stores. Backyard ponds and garden pools are generally not a major mosquito problem as long as they are kept stocked with minnows and emergent vegetation is controlled.