

Mosquito General Information

The Responsibility for Mosquito Control

All mosquitoes must have water to complete their life cycle. Stagnant water left from the rain may increase mosquito activity. Rain and irrigation water can produce hundreds of thousands of mosquitoes if it is allowed to stand for as little as three days. In areas where ponding water cannot be prevented, the water can be treated within 24 to 48 hours to prohibit the development of mosquitoes before the biting adults start emerging. Here are a few tips on what you can do to eliminate mosquito breeding sites.

- ✓ Drain animal watering troughs, bird baths, pet watering dishes, old tires, planters, etc. weekly.
- ✓ Clean gutters of all debris and make sure they are draining properly.
- ✓ Repair water leaks, sprinkler systems or coolers that cause water to pond.
- ✓ Remove vegetation and floating debris in and around ponds and stagnant swimming pools to limit breeding potential. Also, you may want to consider adding mosquito-eating fish called gambusias to your ponds.
- ✓ Fill in low spots, control the irrigation in your yard or pastures, and drain standing water from buckets and other containers that can collect water on your property.

Individual Protection from Mosquitoes begins with 3 "D's". Drain, Dress, Defend

Drain- empty any and all containers that may hold or trap water which will create mosquito breeding areas

Dress- wear loose fitting, light colored clothing and wear long sleeves and long pants to cover exposed skin

Defend- properly apply EPA approved mosquito repellants to exposed skin or on clothing to discourage mosquitoes
Avoid outdoor activity at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active if possible

Mosquitoes

Mosquitoes have a serious impact on the health, comfort, and the economic welfare of people. Some species transmit diseases to man and animals. There is particular concern with mosquito-borne encephalitis and West Nile Virus. Large numbers of mosquitoes interfere with outdoor work and recreation.

There are 2 main types of mosquitoes in Greene County:

1. STAGNANT WATER MOSQUITOES



Culex pipiens: (common house mosquito) is a species of blood-feeding mosquito of the family Culicidae. In the US, it can spread West Nile Virus. Also known as the "Northern House Mosquito". Unlike other mosquitoes which enter houses through doorways, *Culex pipiens* will work their way through crevices, around windows and through screens to get into houses. Adult females feed on birds primarily, humans and other mammals secondarily, with peak feeding activities at dusk and dawn.

Typical Breeding Sites: Tin cans, old tires, decorative ponds, bird baths, horse troughs, overgrown ditches, unmaintained swimming pools, open septic tanks, sewage and industrial waste ponds. *Culex pipiens* is usually the most common pest mosquito in urban and suburban settings. *Culex pipiens* is recognized as the primary vector of **St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE)** and **West Nile Virus** in the eastern US.

Flight Range: ½ -1 mile



Culex tarsalis: This is the most important mosquito of arboviruses in western North America. Responsible for maintenance, amplification and epidemic transmission of Western Equine, and St Louis viruses in irrigated and riparian habitats. Also capable of transmitting **West Nile Virus**.

Typical Breeding Sites: usually among surface water pools that are frequently surrounded by grasses and annual vegetation and agricultural tail water. Females feed mostly on birds shortly after sunset.

Flight range: up to 17 miles.

2. INTERMITTENT WATER MOSQUITOES (Flood water mosquitoes)



Aedes vexans: One of the most widespread pest mosquitoes in the world. In North America, it is common in southern Canada and is found throughout the United States, with the exception of Hawaii. They are vicious biters and are responsible for most mosquito nuisance complaints due to their activity during the day. They are known vectors of Western Equine and St. Louis Encephalitis. They can also be vectors in dog heartworm.

Typical Breeding Sites: It breeds in a great variety of temporary flood pools, usually in woodlands or grassy sites (fields, ditches), and can be produced in large numbers in these habitats.

Flight range: up to 5 miles or more.



Aedes albopictus: (Asian tiger mosquito) capable of transmitting diseases such as dengue fever and chikungunya. The mosquito is most active between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm. It is an aggressive biter and will bite humans very quickly. It is also active at dusk and dawn near areas of vegetation.

Typical Breeding Sites: thrives in urban and suburban neighborhoods because backyard containers and clutter (tires, buckets, water cans, gutters, etc.) offer ideal breeding conditions for them. These mosquitoes do not travel far from their breeding sites so owners must be vigilant about standing water in their own yard.

Flight Range: 600-700 feet