

Remember...

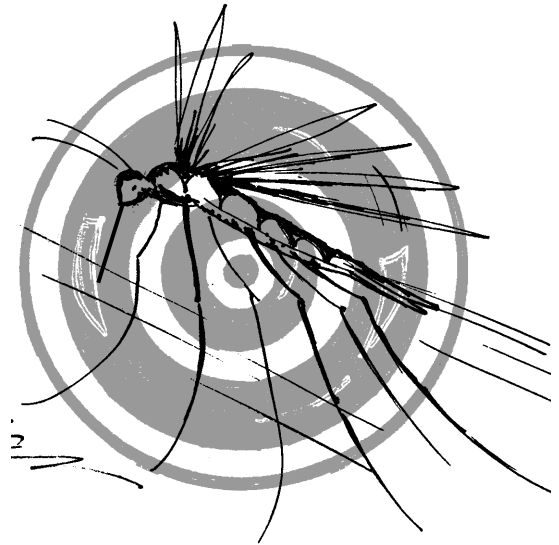
The facts about West Nile Virus from Texas Department of Health (TDH)

- Very few mosquitoes actually carry West Nile Virus
- Human illness from West Nile Virus is rare
- Less than 1% of those bitten by infected mosquitoes become severely ill
- Healthy individuals have mild, if any, symptoms
- The elderly and those with impaired immune systems are most susceptible
- Information on West Nile Virus in Texas: www.tdh.state.tx.us/zoonosis/diseases/Arboviral/westNile/

Reducing pesticide use protects your health & the environment!

- TDH promotes comprehensive, step-by-step mosquito control:
Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM)
 - 1) surveillance by sampling
 - 2) reduction of breeding sites
 - 3) biological control
 - 4) larvicide standing water once a week
 - 5) as a last resort when disease is present, targeted pesticide application for adult mosquitoes
- “No pesticide is 100 percent safe”
Environmental Protection Agency
- Mosquitoes develop resistance to chemical pesticides **Cornell University**
- For information on *IMM*, visit:
www.tdh.state.tx.us/beh/gs/protex_2.doc

Targeting Mosquitoes



**What YOU can do
to target mosquitoes before
they become a problem!**

To receive a resource list
about less-toxic mosquito control, call
Community Associations of The Woodlands
281.210.3900

4/05

Information provided by:
Community Associations of The Woodlands
The Woodlands G.R.E.E.N.
Waste Management
Montgomery County Precinct 3

The safest and most effective mosquito control... **targets mosquitoes before they fly!**

“The reduction, elimination, or treatment of mosquito breeding areas is the best and most cost-effective technique for mosquito control.”

**1,000 mosquitoes a week
can be produced in
a 6” saucer or puddle of water!**

Eliminate breeding sites to reduce risk of disease...

- AVOID** overwatering landscape
- keep grass clippings out of storm drains
- empty plant saucers and containers
- change water in birdbaths twice a week
- change pet water daily
- clean-up trash and debris
- cut weeds and tall grass
- clean clogged rain gutters and downspouts
- correct standing water by contouring landscape to facilitate drainage
- fill ruts and holes that collect water
- properly maintain pools, spas and pumps
- check for standing water on tarps, plastic covers and around air conditioners
- repair dripping faucets and leaky pipes

**Mosquitoes generally
remain within 100-200 feet
of their breeding site!**

“...when you do these small things that don’t seem like very much, it is a lot, and your population of mosquitoes will decrease tremendously.”

Texas Department of Health

Target mosquito larvae...

- keep balance in ponds and water gardens with natural predators or stock with mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*)
- if needed, treat ponds, ditches and standing water with *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis (bti)*, a bacterial larvicide that targets mosquitoes

Enjoy outside...

- avoid being out of doors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active
- wear pants and long sleeves
- use fans to keep air moving on porches, decks and gazebos
- considering exposure time, choose least-toxic insect repellent, apply as labeled and remove as directed
- repair leaky butane and propane tanks on gas grills that attract mosquitoes

Welcome natural predators...

Learn how maintaining the balance of nature contributes to mosquito control!

- invite natural predators of mosquito larvae tadpoles, crayfish, water scorpions, fish, damselfly naiads & dragonfly naiads
- invite predators of adult mosquitoes hummingbirds, song birds, frogs, toads, bats, dragonflies & damselflies

