

Mosquito Breeds



Aedes and *Ochlerotatus* mosquitoes are painful and persistent biters. They search for a blood meal early in the morning, at dusk (crepuscular feeders) and into the evening. Some are diurnal (daytime biters) especially on cloudy days and in shaded areas. They usually do not enter dwellings, and they prefer to bite mammals like humans. *Aedes* and *Ochlerotatus* mosquitoes are strong fliers and are known to fly many miles from their breeding sources.

Culex mosquitoes are painful and persistent biters as well, but prefer to attack at dusk and after dark. They readily enter dwellings for blood meals. Domestic and wild birds usually are preferred over man, cows, and horses. *Culex nigripalpus* is known to transmit St. Louis encephalitis to man. *Culex* mosquitoes are generally weak fliers and do not move far from home, although they have been known to fly up to 2 miles. *Culex* usually live only a few weeks during the warm summer months. Those females that emerge in late summer search for sheltered areas where they “hibernate” until spring. Warm weather brings them out again in search of water on which to lay their eggs.

Culiseta mosquitoes are moderately aggressive biters, attacking in the evening hours or in the shade during the day. *Psorophora*, *Coquillettia*, and *Mansonia* mosquitoes are becoming more pestiferous as an ever-expanding human population invades their natural habitats. *Anopheles* mosquitoes are persistent biters and are the only mosquitoes which transmit Malaria to humans.

There are approximately 40 species of mosquito in the United States that can carry and transmit the West Nile Virus (WNV). So keeping yourself and your property protected is a priority. Now less than 1% of people infected will develop a serious illness. However, it can occur to people of any age, with those over 60, the very young, and those with an immunosuppression being at a greater risk. Recovery can take several weeks or months and some effects may be permanent. Most alarming symptoms are paralysis, tremors, seizures, coma, neck stiffness, high fever, disorientation, and headache.

The Zika Virus is transmitted through an *Aedes* Species and is cause for great alarm. This can be transferred when a mosquito bites an infected person and then another human. It can also be sexually transmitted between humans. The *Aedes* Mosquito typically lays eggs in standing water like in buckets, flower pots, puddles, etc. And they usually prefer to bite people and will live indoors or out to be near their human blood meal.

Regardless of the breed of mosquito, no one will tell you that they like to be bitten, and with all of the diseases that transmitted by mosquitoes it is essential that you do some research and find out the best way to keep your property clear of breeding grounds (dump out standing water, spray shaded and damp areas where they might hide or breed). Prevention of breeding and biting is our best defense against mosquito bites and the possible transmission of diseases.