

Mosquito and West Nile Virus Website

In case you haven't noticed, 2007 has been a good year for mosquitoes. First, heavy rains brought out large numbers of floodwater mosquitoes (e.g., *Aedes vexans* and *Psorophora* species). More recently we are seeing more container-breeding mosquitoes, such as *Aedes albopictus* (the Asian tiger mosquito) and the salt marsh mosquito, *Ochlerotatus* (= *Aedes*) *sollicitans*. While there is little that can be done to prevent emergence of floodwater mosquitoes, container breeding mosquitoes are a preventable problem.

1. This is a good time to remind people in your communities of the importance of emptying wheelbarrows, bird baths, wading pools, and any other backyard items that collect and hold water.

As the summer progresses, and especially as things begin to dry out, we will also start to see more of the southern house mosquito, *Culex quinquefasciatus*. This pest is our main culprit for transmission of West Nile virus, so it is even more important that people participating in backyard and outdoor events take advantage of insect repellents.

For your reference, two Insects in the City news updates from previous years are relevant to mosquito problems again this year.

Summary of new mosquito repellents recommended by the CDC:

http://citybugs.tamu.edu/IntheNews_Details.asp?ID_Key=420

The buzz on mosquito misting systems:

http://citybugs.tamu.edu/IntheNews_Details.asp?ID_Key=426

The Department of State Health Services maintains a very nice website providing up-to-date data on West Nile virus occurrence <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/arboviral/westNile/> . Both 2007 and historical data are available on the site. Mosquito samples have tested positive for WNV in Dallas, Tarrant and Denton counties this summer. To date, the only non-mosquito, positive WNV detection in district 04 was a horse detection in Collin County.