

Mosquitoes and rain water

Understanding what happens to storm water as it percolates through our wetlands or collects in man-made containers is crucial to developing strategies to control mosquitoes. In general, if water is allowed to sit in shallow, stagnant pools longer than five days, and there are no fish present in the water, then mosquitoes will inevitably develop.



Take Action:

- ▶ **Rain barrels and rain gardens must be properly designed and maintained.** Rain barrels should be tightly covered with a screen no larger than 12 squares per linier inch. Soil and plantings in rain gardens should allow water to be completely absorbed in less than five days after significant rainfall.
- ▶ **Storm water retention ponds that are designed to hold water for long periods of time should be aerated or stocked with fish, and be relatively free of protective vegetation.** Mosquitoes like shallow, stagnant water that sits for more than five days.
- ▶ **Artificial containers – everything from small bird baths to large swimming pools – should be properly maintained and monitored.** Bird bath water should be changed on a regular basis. Swimming pools should be properly chlorinated. Old tires should be properly recycled. Debris around yards and neighborhoods should be properly discarded.
- ▶ **Larval mosquito control may be an option for those sites that cannot be redesigned or that change over time.** Call the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District at 651-645-9149 for more information on larval mosquito control options in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Will this wet area produce mosquitoes?

- ◆ How wet and for how long? That's the most important factor for mosquitoes!



The Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD) provides a variety of services to 2.7 million people living in an area covering 2,800 square miles in the seven-county Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota metropolitan area.

Phone: 651-645-9149 www.mmcd.org

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Mosquito Facts

Do mosquitoes need bodies of water to breed?

FACT: It depends on what you mean by "bodies of water." Mosquitoes need standing water to hatch their eggs but can do so in as little as a bottle cap or tablespoon of water. So mosquitoes don't need ponds or drainage ditches. They can hatch in places like gutters, plant container saucers, poorly drained yards and discarded tires – meaning you probably have a mosquito nursery in your back yard. No water, no mosquitoes. It's that simple.

-source: mosquitozone.com



Officials: Get rid of standing water after discovery of new mosquito species.

A new species of mosquito has been established in Minnesota and that concerns the state health department.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD) confirmed Monday that the Japanese rock pool mosquito (*Aedes Japonicus*) has now been established in at least five southeastern Minnesota counties.

Now the MDH is urging residents to get rid of any water-holding containers where mosquitoes breed.

“It reproduces in little water holding containers so if you have a couple tires behind the garage or a gallon of ice cream pail that you’ve got in the woods, these are containers that can be used by this mosquito,” Dave Neitzel of the MN Dept. of Health said. “We’re concerned about this particular one,” he added.

The Japanese rock pool mosquito can transmit LaCrosse encephalitis virus (LAC) and West Nile virus to humans.

The Japanese rock pool mosquito was accidentally imported into this country and has been steadily moving across the U.S. since it was first found in 1998.

The Japanese rock pool mosquito was first spotted in Minnesota in Scott County in 2007. Last year it was spotted in Dakota, Goodhue, Wabasha and Houston counties.

The species has returned to Dakota County this year, which may mean it’s here to stay. “This mosquito survived the past winter here so we know that they’re in several counties and we know that they can survive winters,” Neitzel explained.

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