

## Mosquito Facts

Mosquitoes are small flying insects that feed on human and animal blood or plant juices. Only female mosquitoes bite to get a blood meal for their growing eggs. Mosquitoes are generally considered a nuisance pest, but occasionally they can transmit disease.



## Where They Live and Breed

Mosquitoes lay their eggs in stagnant water around the yard. Because many types of mosquitoes do not travel far from where they hatch, eliminating the standing water in your yard will greatly reduce the mosquito population. Weeds, tall grass and shrubbery provide an outdoor home for adult mosquitoes.

## When They Are Most Active

Some mosquitoes are most active between dusk and dawn when the air is calm, and that is when the females are most likely to bite. However, others will feed at any time of the day.

## Protecting Yourself

Most mosquitoes **do not** transmit disease. Of the 159 different species of mosquitoes in New York State, the *Culex pipiens*, more commonly known as the backyard or household mosquito, is the central focus for the spread of West Nile Virus WNV.

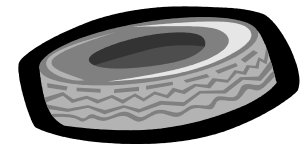
This being known, it is unnecessary to limit your outdoor activities. However, taking precautionary measures can reduce your risk of getting bitten by mosquitoes.

## If WNV is Found in Your Area:

- ✓ Wear shoes and socks, long pants, and long sleeved shirts when outdoors for long periods of time, or when mosquitoes are most active.
- ✓ Avoid being outside during peak mosquito feeding times.
- ✓ Use botanical mosquito repellents containing natural oils such as eucalyptus, lemongrass, garlic, cloves, peppermint, and Neem oil, among others. These botanicals are recommended, especially for children.

## Tips to Reduce Mosquitoes in and Around Your Home

- ✓ Cover trash containers to keep out rain.
- ✓ Drill holes in the bottoms of recycling containers.
- ✓ Clean roof gutters and remove water from flat roofs.
- ✓ Drain the water in birdbaths, plant pots, and drip trays twice a week.
- ✓ Sweep your driveway after it rains so that it is free of puddles.
- ✓ Get rid of water-holding containers, especially old tires, cans, buckets, drums, wheelbarrows and bottles.
- ✓ Ensure all windows and doors are properly screened.



**Remember: Taking personal responsibility for your property and following these tips can help you and your family enjoy a more mosquito free season!**