

NORTHWEST MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

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Mosquito Update

September 23, 2015

PRESENT CONTROL STATUS:

NUISANCE MOSQUITOES

Rainfall September 17-19 produced 2.32 inches across most of the District. This has resulted in the hatch of another brood of nuisance mosquitoes. Thus far larvae are in the second instar stage and developing slowly due to the cooler evening temperatures (mid to lower 60's) expected through Friday. Currently crews are treating all water sources found with these floodwater mosquitoes. It is expected that some of these nuisance mosquitoes may develop to biting adults and become noticeable around the middle to end of next week if current evening temperatures remain the same. Typical this time of the mosquito season biting nuisance mosquitoes are more noticeable during the daylight hours than the cooler evenings that suppress their biting & flight activity. Currently, nuisance mosquitoes are very low averaging around 1.2 mosquitoes/trap. The first heavy frost is needed to stop all mosquito biting.

CULEX MOSQUITOES

Culex mosquitoes are also in low numbers due to cooler evening temperatures averaging 5.4 mosquitoes/trap. Because traps are collecting fewer mosquitoes the next tests for West Nile virus will be performed later this week and then posted at <http://nwmadil.com/WNVTEST2015.htm>. It is expected that the current and continuing cool temperatures will suppress *Culex* mosquito biting of these mosquitoes. **RESIDENTS ARE STILL ADVISED TO AVOID MOSQUITO BITING** since blood feeding by these mosquitoes may still be possible until colder temperatures completely inhibit their flight/biting ability.

NWMAD last performed night spraying on 9/1 and 9/2 to help reduce infected mosquitoes. Currently, additional spraying is not likely because of colder evening temperatures preventing this operation.

Northwest Mosquito Abatement District (NWMAD) has RAMP tested **1705** batches of *Culex* mosquitoes for West Nile virus. Thus far, **Two hundred eighty two** batches of *Culex* mosquitoes have tested positive for West Nile virus within our District territory (see <http://nwmadil.com/WNVTEST2015.htm>). **Two human cases** of West Nile virus within District territory has been reported to us. Residents of NWMAD territory are advised to remain vigilant of mosquito avoidance/protection since WNV infected *Culex* mosquitoes may be with us until the first hard frost arrives and mosquito flight activity finally ceases!

NWMAD Crews continue to treat typical container and other stagnant water sources likely to produce these mosquitoes. Residents of the District are strongly advised to continue inspecting their properties for stagnant water filled containers that may produce these types of mosquitoes. Examples of mosquito production areas encountered by homeowners can be viewed at: http://www.nwmadil.com/breeding_sites1.htm. Typically, *Culex* mosquitoes are produced from natural and artificial container sources that hold the stagnant water preferred by these mosquitoes. The most prevalent *Culex* production habitats on homeowner properties are: leaf & seed clogged rain gutters holding water, buckets, un-maintained swimming pools, other miscellaneous containers and un-rimmed tires.

MOSQUITO VIRUS SURVEILLANCE IN ILLINOIS

Mosquito batches in the District territory testing positive for these viruses will be posted at the following website address: <http://www.nwmadil.com/WNVTEST2015.htm>.

The Illinois Department of Public Health reports West Nile virus (WNV) activity throughout Illinois. More information about WNV can be found on the state's website: <http://public.dph.illinois.gov/wnvpublic> or by calling 217-782-5830. The State's website also has other valuable resource links on WNV, pesticides and mosquito control.

NWMAD WEBSITE:

The NWMAD website (www.nwmadil.com) has additional information on homeowner mosquito control practices. This Mosquito Update newsletter is available at this site as well as information on the history of NWMAD, personnel contacts, mosquito information links, employment opportunities and mosquito spray schedules.

REDUCING THE RISK OF MOSQUITO BITES:

As temperatures increase avoid outdoor activity if possible from dusk to dawn when the mosquitoes bite the most. If you do go out wear light colored, loose fitting, protective clothing and insect repellent (always read label warnings and directions). Make sure mosquitoes do not enter homes through unscreened or broken doors or windows. Residents are encouraged not to create mosquito harborage or resting areas. Make sure tall grassy areas are trimmed and other unnecessary vegetation is cut back. If plants must be watered do so in the morning so the vegetation and soil has a chance to dry making it less attractive to mosquitoes. Empty any containers holding stagnating water for 7 days or longer like: tire casings, birdbaths, clogged rain gutters, flowerpots and rain barrels that may produce mosquitoes. Neglected swimming pools may produce thousands of mosquitoes. Call the District to report large stagnant water areas that remain wet for more than 7 days.

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Director
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PLEASE FORWARD THIS INFORMATION TO APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.

