



Habitat

Mosquitoes are bloodsucking insects, which not only cause a nuisance to residents, but are capable of transmitting certain diseases to humans and animals.

The most common diseases spread by mosquitoes are Ross River Virus (RRV) and the similar Barmah Forest Virus (BFV), Malaria and Human Filariasis. Heartworm in dogs is also transmitted by mosquitoes.

All mosquito eggs are laid by females who have had a previous blood meal. As is the case with most mothers in nature, she chooses a place where the water will be ideal for her offspring. In some situations, the water of choice around the home will be high in organic content, though some eggs will be laid in relatively clean water. Mosquitoes can breed in any fresh or salt water, which remains stagnant for longer than 5 days. This includes containers, drains, ponds, pools, dams and tide-affected land.

Places favoured around the home include tin cans, barrels, wading pools, pot plants, puddles, creeks, tyre swings, etc. More often, the area preferred is sheltered from the wind either by grasses or weeds.

Control of Mosquitoes

Indoor

Space sprays or aerosol "bombs" containing synergized pyrethrins 0.1% are effective against adult mosquitoes. Frequent treatments may be needed during problem periods.

Outdoor

Space sprays or aerosol foggers, containing pyrethrins, will give rapid knockdown of adult mosquitoes. However, it is a temporary treatment with little residual effect. Residual sprays applied to tall grasses, weeds, trees, shrubs, and outbuildings, one or two days before use of the area is effective. Use water solution or emulsions instead of oil-based formulations to prevent plant injury. There are a number of different formulations available and may be applied by Thermal Fogging or ULV (Ultra Low Volume) application of adulticide products.

Prevention Tips

- Keep gutters clean
- Filling pot plant bases with sand
- Removing tyres, containers and other items in the yard which could hold water
- Chlorinating swimming pools
- Keeping ponds and dams stocked with fish
- Screening windows and doors