

WEST NILE VIRUS

Preventive Measures to help control mosquitoes

- Remember to wear insect repellent that contains DEET. For adults it should not contain more than 35 percent and for children 10 percent. If you spray your clothing, there is no need to spray repellent containing DEET on the skin under your clothing.
- Wear light colored clothing during the day and dark colors at night.
- Wear long pants and sleeved shirts if working in the yard.
- Consider staying indoors at dawn, dusk, and in the early evening which are peak biting times.

Mosquito Habitat

- Mosquitoes are more active in the early morning and at dusk, and are more concentrated around shrubbery during this time.
- Exception to this rule is the Asian Tiger mosquitoes, which are active during the day.
- Most effective way to control mosquitoes around your home is to find and eliminate breeding sites. All mosquitoes have four life stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. The first three must have water for development.

Preparations that can be done now

- Check your rain gutters and downspouts to see if they are draining properly, if not, they may be clogged. This may cause shallow pools to form when it rains creating a perfect place for mosquitoes to breed.
- Empty water from buckets lying outside your home. Buckets that are turned over can have depressions deep enough for mosquitoes to breed. Please take them inside or dump the water from them every couple of days.
- Check bottom trays of flowerpots for stagnant water and replenish every couple of days. This also includes any lawn ornaments.
- Maintain your bird baths by changing the water daily. Other places that mosquitoes can breed are old tires, tarps covering trailers and boats, down spout splash blocks which may not be sloped away from your home.
- Rake leaves from around your home to make sure there are no low spots that can collect and hold water. Low areas need to be filled so water will not be able to collect.
- Check your outdoor faucets to make sure they are not leaking when hoses are attached and when you start using window air conditioners make sure the condensate is not ponding.
- Irrigate lawns and gardens carefully to prevent standing water. Typical rule of thumb is one inch per week.

Mosquito control on Fort Jackson

- In 2002 several mosquito CO2 traps were purchased to thwart the enemy menace.
- Fogging operations are based on the above surveillance.
- Trapped mosquitoes will be taken to Fort Eustis MEDDAC for identification and forwarded to the Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine for testing.
- The environmental division also places mosquito dunks in standing water as necessary to control mosquito larvae.

West Nile Virus and Birds

- Although West Nile may affect other birds, it typically infects crows and blue jays. Residents and post workers are asked to report any dead birds to the Entomology shop at 788-2946. Dead birds are identified and then sent to the National Wild Life Laboratories, Madison, Wisconsin for standardized testing.