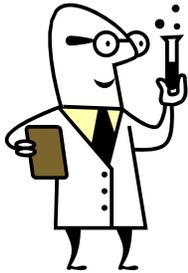




IT'S ALL THE BUZZ!

During the late 1960's, the City of Norman, in cooperation with the University of Oklahoma, created Norman's mosquito control program. The program was designed to collect data, identify species and control mosquitoes through larvicide application and fogging. By 2003, the Norman mosquito surveillance program was seen as a model for other cities across Oklahoma.



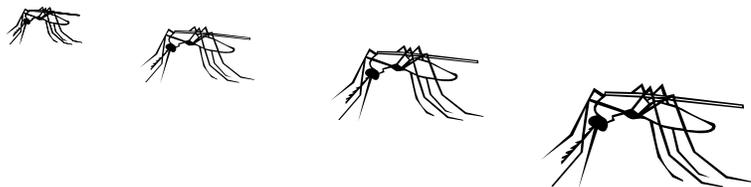
IT'S SCIENCE! Beginning in mid March each year, the City's mosquito surveillance officer places light traps across Norman near locations known to provide mosquito habitat such as drainage channels and creeks. These traps attract night-flying mosquitoes which fall into collection jars that are retrieved daily. The collection jar contents are examined to identify mosquito species and number of females. If fifty females are caught in any one trap, public notification will be issued for spraying in that particular area.

IT'S OUR ENVIRONMENT! Although the program's scientific method for collection and identification remains the same as originally designed, treatment methods now focus more on the complimentary techniques of nontoxic larvicide application and the introduction of "mosquito fish", as the most effective and environmentally friendly solution to addressing the mosquito problem in channels and creeks.

IT'S THEIR HABITAT! The most common mosquito in Norman in the last several years is the so-called **Asian tiger mosquito**, a species that prefers to breed in small containers. Although the tiger mosquito has NOT been described as a known carrier of disease in the United States, they can be a particularly fierce biter and, therefore, an extremely pesky nuisance. Because the tiger mosquito is a daytime biter, and does not ordinarily fly at night, fogging is not an effective treatment for this species. The best known solution to controlling mosquitoes of all species is to eliminate their habitat.



Water is the primary element that provides mosquitoes the habitat in which to breed. The tiger mosquito is known to breed primarily in small containers, such as those often found in backyards and can go from egg to biting mosquito in as little as one week!





**BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR!
ELIMINATE MOSQUITOES IN YOUR OWN BACK YARD!**

-  **Clean out your gutters and down spouts to let water run freely.**
-  **Replace water DAILY in wading pools, bird baths and pet watering bowls.**
-  **Keep your lawn cut short and shrubbery trimmed.**
-  **Stock your water garden with fish.**
-  **Remove water from all containers such as: old tires, buckets, wheelbarrows, potted plant drain pans, abandoned swimming pools and water gardens, yard waste and trash receptacles, boat and equipment tarps.**
-  **Fill-in low spots in your yard to prevent standing water.**
-  **Take advantage of the City's annual spring and fall clean-ups to remove debris.**
-  **Mosquitoes don't care about fences! If you have a neighbor who is elderly or disabled, ask permission to help eliminate potential mosquito habitat in their yard too.**
-  **See the Internet for many sources of Purple Martin birdhouse information.**

To get the most from your summer gardening, sports and outdoor leisure time, take steps to eliminate standing water, protect yourself and your children by wearing light colored clothing and use mosquito repellent as directed by the manufacturer.

For detailed information about West Nile Virus, go to the Oklahoma State Department of Health Communicable Disease Division Internet site at:

<http://www.health.state.ok.us/program/cdd/ow/index.html>

For further information about Norman's mosquito surveillance program, you may call the Parks and Recreation Department at 366-5472.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!