

ASIAN TIGER MOSQUITOES



GENERAL INFORMATION AND HEALTH CONCERNS

Aedes albopictus, commonly known as the Asian tiger mosquito, is a small black mosquito that was accidentally imported into the United States in the 1980s. It is about 1/4-inch long and has a white stripe down the center of its head and back and white bands on its legs.

Like all mosquitoes, the Asian tiger mosquito begins its life cycle in standing water, hatching from eggs and developing as aquatic larvae. After about a week of development, the larvae emerge as adult mosquitoes. The Asian tiger mosquito prefers artificial water holding containers such as tires, clogged rain gutters, abandoned bird baths and other sites that hold stagnant water. They have even been found developing in objects as small as a bottle cap!

The Asian tiger mosquito presents two major problems. The first problem is that these mosquitoes are a nuisance. If you live in an urban area and have a mosquito problem, Asian tiger mosquitoes are the most likely culprit. Unlike many other species of mosquitoes, Asian tiger mosquitoes are very aggressive daytime biters.

The second problem is that Asian tiger mosquitoes may pose a health threat. They have been found to be a successful disease vector that is able to transmit diseases such as West Nile virus.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL

The following picture illustrates water holding areas where Asian tiger mosquitoes commonly lay their eggs and begin their life cycle.



Image used with permission from the Illinois Dept. of Public Health

Please look around your property for potential areas of standing/stagnant water. Use the check list below to help identify these possible mosquito breeding sites around your home.

- Discarded tires
- Pool cover, neglected swimming pool/hot tub
- Birdbath (change water weekly)
- Ornamental pond (stock with fish)
- Flower pots, buckets or other garden containers
- Clogged rain gutters or corrugated drainpipes
- Boat tarp, uncovered boat or wheelbarrow
- Tree rot hole or hollow stump
- Trash can or un-maintained pet water dish
- Other water holding containers or areas

Remember, Asian tiger mosquitoes are “container breeders.” The best way to control them is prevention. Please help to eliminate Asian tiger mosquitoes from your neighborhood by removing all standing water and water holding containers from your property and asking your neighbors to do the same.



For more information please contact the Mosquito Control Section

Northern Delaware: (302) 836-2555

Southern Delaware: (302) 422-1512



<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/mosquito>