

# The Town of West Point Mosquito Control Program

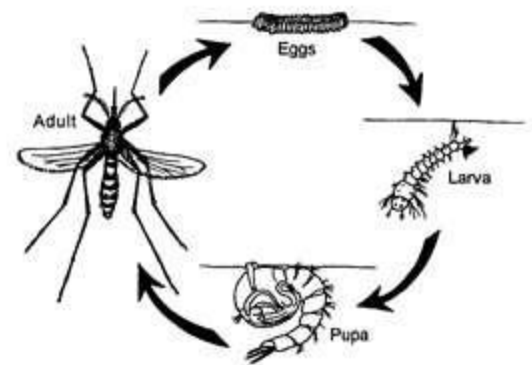


The Town of West Point Mosquito Control Program is designed to assist in a community-wide effort targeted to help reduce mosquitoes to a more tolerable level. Without a community-wide mosquito control program the Town could be at risk of experiencing potential health problems such as Encephalitis, and numerous other ailments.

## Facts about Mosquitoes... Did you know?

- There are about 200 different species of mosquitoes in the United States.
- Only female mosquitoes bite. They require a "blood meal" in order to develop eggs to breed more mosquitoes.
- The entire life cycle from egg to adult can be completed in less than 10 days. Most species live about 2 weeks.
- Mosquitoes have been known to fly up to 10 mph, even fly backwards.
- One discarded tire full of water can potentially produce tens of thousands of mosquitoes over a season.

## Life Cycle of the Mosquito



## Mosquitoes have many favorite places... Are you harboring mosquitoes?

The majority of mosquito problems around the house can be traced to small containers that hold water for a least one week. Old bottles, cups, flowerpot water trays, birdbaths, tree holes and old tires are very good locations for mosquitoes to breed. Leaf-filled gutters are also particularly good places for mosquitoes to breed.

### Here are a few other tips to help do your part to control the mosquito population:

- Properly dispose of all unwanted containers that can catch and hold rainwater: cans, plastic containers, and ceramic pots.
- Fix dripping faucets and eliminate puddles around faucets, downspouts, and air conditioning systems.
- Properly dispose of any tires around your property. Used tires are the number one habitat for mosquitoes.
- Clear leaves and other debris out of roof gutters; clogged gutters are prime mosquito habitat.
- Change water in birdbaths, pet water bowls, and fountains frequently, at least twice a week. Turn over wheelbarrows, boats, and buckets.
- Make sure that boat covers are secure, not sagging, so as to prevent water from accumulating.

## **How does the Town of West Point help control mosquitoes?**

We follow a twofold approach for mosquito control, utilizing products for both larval and adult mosquito control. The commercial name of the product we currently use for adult control is Biomist. Odorless and non-irritating, Biomist consists of, 1.50 % Permethrin, 7.50% Piperonyl Butoxide, and 91% inert ingredients. The insecticide fog attacks the adult mosquito with a “fast knock down”, which literally knocks the legs off of the adult mosquito affecting both its ability to fly, and its ability to breed. Biomist has also been found to be somewhat affective in the control of biting and non-biting midges and blackflies.

We currently administer the insecticide with the use of a ULV (Ultra Low Volume) fog generator. The use of the ULV not only decreases operational costs by using less chemical, but also releases a much smaller, higher concentrated droplet which stays suspended in the air until all momentum (prevailing winds) is lost, then quickly dissipates, (80% biodegradable on plant surfaces within 24 hours).

We have also had success controlling mosquito larva using a continuous release mosquito growth regulator called Altosid (pellets). Altosid is used in storm drains, catch basins, roadside ditches, and standing water that have potential to breed mosquitoes and prevent adult mosquitoes from developing and taking flight.

Beginning early June, the Town of West Point begins the Mosquito Control Spray Program. We target the following areas once per week, or as necessary. The current spraying schedule is as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Street through 23<sup>rd</sup> Street – Evening spraying Tuesdays

23<sup>rd</sup> Street through points North – Evening spraying Thursdays

*The West Point Ball Field Complex is scheduled to be sprayed each Wednesday morning @ 6:00am.*

\*ALL SPRAYING IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING ON WEATHER.

Spraying efforts are primarily performed within the boundaries of “Public Space”, often times leaving sanctuary on private property for the development of suitable mosquito breeding habitats. The success of this community wide effort requires assistance from every property owner within the Town.

## **Would you like to have your yard inspection for mosquitoes?**

We will be happy to come out and inspect your yard for high mosquito activity. Please call our office to set up an appointment at 804-843-4365 or [publicworks@west-point.va.us](mailto:publicworks@west-point.va.us).