

Tires

Mosquito Season and West Nile Virus

Role of Tires in Providing Mosquito Larval Development Sites:

- Rain water and snow melt that accumulates in tires provide an excellent aquatic habitat for mosquitoes to lay their eggs.
- Leaves, grass and other organic material such as soil accumulate in tires and provide optimal conditions for mosquitoes to live, grow, and reproduce.
- Tires and other man-made containers will hold water long into the summer after natural larval habitats have dried up. This means that later on in the summer mosquitoes will be attracted to these sites when they are looking for habitat to lay their eggs.
- Even small amounts of water (1/4 cup or less) is sufficient for mosquitoes to lay their eggs and develop.
- Studies have shown that where a tire stack exists mosquitoes will seek out any water that rests in the tires. Mosquitoes have been found at the bottom and deepest parts of tire stacks.
- Mosquito larval species found in tires are *Culex tarsalis*, *Culex restuans* and *Culiseta inornata*. These species are the prime vectors of West Nile Virus. By decreasing the numbers of these species the risk of transmitting West Nile virus similarly decreases.

Steps to Reduce Mosquito Population and West Nile Virus in Tires:

- Reduce mosquito larval habitats near tires by eliminating standing water in your yard.
- Remove and recycle old used tires on your property.
- Prevent water from getting into tires by storing them indoors or stacking them and covering the stack with a tarp. Covering the top tire of the stack water means mosquitoes cannot enter the stack.
- Empty out tires that have water or other organic material in them.
- Move and rotate tires that have been in one place for a long period of time.
- Drill holes in old tires to allow water drainage and prevent future water accumulation.
- Keep vegetation around tires, such as grass, short to reduce resting sites for adult mosquitoes.

Products that Help Control Mosquito Populations:

- There are products that are available for application to water collecting areas such as tires. These products kill mosquito larvae and prevent the emergence of adult mosquitoes. *B.t.i.* (*Bacillus thuringiensis var israelensis* or Aquabac™, Vectobac™) and *Bacillus sphaericus* (Vectolex™) are naturally occurring bacteria that will only kill mosquito larvae and not harm other insects or animals.
- These products are effective only when mosquito larvae are present. Consult the product distributors for application procedures and effective time lengths.

What is West Nile Virus?

- A disease of birds, transmitted from bird to bird by mosquitoes that feed almost exclusively on birds. Mosquitoes carrying West Nile Virus can then bite and transmit the disease to humans.
- 80% of human infections have no symptoms at all.
- 20% may develop a mild to severe illness called West Nile Fever (nausea, vomiting, headache, muscle pains, rash).
- 1/150 may develop the serious form called West Nile Neurological Syndrome (encephalitis – infection of the brain, fever, headache, confusion, weakness).

For More Information:

Saskatchewan Health
(Toll free) 1-800-667-7766
www.health.gov.sk.ca

Health Canada
(Toll free) 1-800-816-7292
1-866-225-0709
<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca>

Saskatchewan Scrap Tire Corporation
1-306-721-8473
<http://www.scraptire.sk.ca/>