

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM MOSQUITOES

- Always report any unusual number of mosquitoes especially if they are aggressive daytime biting mosquitoes.
- Drain and dump any unnecessary items that could hold water around your home and property.
- Cover empty containers with a lid or place under a roof that does not allow them to fill with water.
- Clean and scrub bird baths and pet bowls weekly.
- Dump the water from plant saucers regularly.
- Check that gutters are not holding water and cover rain barrels with tight screen so that mosquitoes cannot enter.
- The best way to protect yourself from mosquito transmitted diseases is to avoid mosquito bites when going outdoors. Apply EPA registered insect repellents such as those containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535. These will provide effective protection against mosquito bites when used properly.

COMMON MOSQUITO BREEDING SOURCES



Plant saucers



Buckets



Bird baths



Rain barrels



Septic tanks



Tires



Toys



Pet bowls



Wheelbarrows



Cemetery vases



Treeholes



Plant axils (where leaf meets stem)

ABOUT CONTRA COSTA MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

Protecting Public Health Since 1927

Early in the 1900s, Northern California suffered through epidemics of encephalitis and malaria, and severe outbreaks of saltwater mosquitoes. At times, parts of Contra Costa County were considered uninhabitable resulting in the closure of waterfront areas and schools during peak mosquito seasons. Recreational areas were abandoned and Realtors had trouble selling homes. The general economy suffered. As a result, residents established the Contra Costa Mosquito Abatement District which began service in 1927.

Today, the Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District continues to protect public health with environmentally sound techniques, reliable and efficient services, as well as programs to combat emerging diseases, all while preserving and/or enhancing the environment.

FREE Services for Contra Costa County Residents

MOSQUITOES
Inspection and control

TICKS
Tick identification

MOSQUITOFISH
Free for residential ponds

RATS AND MICE
Inspection and advice

YELLOWJACKETS AND BEES
Ground-nest and swarm control

SKUNKS
Inspection and assistance

PUBLIC EDUCATION
Literature and presentations



CONTRA COSTA
MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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INVASIVE MOSQUITO SPECIES OF CALIFORNIA



CONTRA COSTA
MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT



AEDES AEGYPTI



Photo by Jim Gathany

Commonly referred to as the **Yellow Fever mosquito**, the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito has a worldwide distribution in tropic and subtropical areas and has recently been found in different locations throughout California.

General Information:

- *Aedes aegypti* is a small, dark mosquito with a white violin shaped marking on its back and banded legs.
- *Aedes aegypti* has the ability to transmit dengue fever, chikungunya, yellow fever, and other viruses.

AEDES ALBOPICTUS



Photo by Susan Ellis, Bugwood.org

Commonly referred to as the **Asian Tiger mosquito**, this mosquito is native to Asia, was recently re-introduced to Los Angeles County in 2011 and has spread throughout neighboring areas.

General Information:

- *Aedes albopictus* is a small, dark mosquito with a white stripe on its back and banded legs.
- This mosquito not only has the ability to transmit dengue, chikungunya, and yellow fever viruses but it has also been found infected in nature with the following viruses: West Nile, Eastern equine encephalitis, and Japanese encephalitis. It can also transmit dog heartworm parasites.

COMMON CHARACTERISTICS OF BOTH MOSQUITO SPECIES

- These mosquitoes are aggressive daytime biters that feed both indoors and outdoors.
- They are approximately 1/8 – 1/4 of an inch in size.
- Their peak feeding times are during the early morning and late afternoon.
- They prefer biting people but also feed on other domestic animals — mostly mammals.
- The entire aquatic cycle (i.e. from egg to adult) can occur in as little as 7–9 days. The life span for adult mosquitoes is around three weeks.
- They have a short flight range, so egg laying sites are likely to be close to where the mosquitoes are found.
- Eggs are laid, sometimes on dry surfaces, over a period of several days, are resistant to drying out, and can survive for six or more months. These mosquitoes remain alive through the winter in the egg stage, and when the eggs are covered with water in warm weather, the larvae hatch.

COMMON PLACES WHERE THESE INVASIVE MOSQUITO SPECIES LAY THEIR EGGS

These mosquitoes are commonly found in urban, suburban, and rural areas, as well as edges of forested areas.

Backyards are the #1 source for mosquito production. Anything that can hold water for more than a few days has the ability to produce mosquitoes. Common sources include:

- flower pots
- tree holes
- discarded tires
- water bowls for pets
- plant saucers
- hollow bamboo stumps
- buckets
- ponds
- tin cans
- plants' leaf axils
- bird baths
- rain barrels
- clogged rain gutters
- ornamental fountains

Maintain, manage or eliminate all types of standing water on a regular basis. Keep in mind that mosquitoes need very little water to complete their life cycle; therefore some areas may not be as obvious as others. For example, discarded bottle caps, empty cans, bottles, sprinkler heads, etc.

NEW FIGHT THE BITE

HELP US DETECT INVASIVE MOSQUITO SPECIES

Help us protect public health by learning how to identify invasive mosquito species. Early detection of these invasive mosquitoes will help us control them. We can't do this alone. We need your help.

Always report mosquito problems, especially aggressive daytime biting mosquitoes, to the Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District by calling us at (925) 685-9301 or visit us online at www.contracostamosquito.com

WHY THE CONCERN?

These two mosquito species, found in several areas of California, are capable of transmitting several diseases including dengue fever, chikungunya, yellow fever and Zika.