

ABOUT AEDES AEGYPTI

Aedes Aegypti is an urban mosquito that feeds almost exclusively on humans and can breed successfully in backyards.

Aedes Aegypti can bite at any time but prefer dusk and dawn. These pesky mosquitoes enjoy feasting on ankles, wrists, and areas of thin skin.

The mosquito is black with white banding, and is relatively small. Their lifetime flight range is estimated at 100 yards. Aedes Aegypti eggs last for long periods of time once they are laid in backyard clutter, ditches, water dishes, etc. They will hatch when water is reintroduced to the site. During the hot summer months, eggs may hatch and reach adulthood in as little as four days.

Aedes Aegypti is biochemically capable of transmitting the West Nile Virus, but it is much less capable than the native, nighttime biting mosquitoes. Because the Aedes Aegypti almost never feeds on birds, it almost never has a chance to acquire the virus. For those Aedes Aegypti which do happen to bite an infected bird, they usually do not live long enough to transmit the virus.

Due to the biology and behavior of this mosquito, pesticide applications such as fogging yield only marginal results at best.

The best way of combating the Aedes Aegypti mosquito is to eliminate backyard breeding. This can be done by reducing backyard clutter, trimming overgrown foliage, and draining standing water.



ABOUT MARICOPA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

VISION STATEMENT

As the recognized regional environmental leader, we will develop and foster innovative environmental health protection programs for the safety of our residents and their environment.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Environmental Services Department is to provide effective environmental management to the people of Maricopa County so that residents may enjoy living in a healthy and safe community.

**Maricopa County
Environmental Services Department
Vector Control Division
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www.maricopa.gov/EnvSvc/VectorControl/



Working with our community to ensure
a safe and healthy environment



Rev. 10/2014



**Maricopa County
Environmental
Services Department**

Aedes Aegypti

Learn about this mosquito and
reduce breeding in your yard



Phone: (602) 506-6616

esd.maricopa.gov

Fight the Bite!
Maricopa County



BACKYARD CHECKLIST

Standing Water

- Don't allow water to stand for more than three days
- Cover rainwater barrels with mesh or screen
- Drill holes in the bottom of any unused containers so water can't collect
- Keep decorative fountains operational or drain the water
- Change water in animal watering dishes often
- Remove or drain any place where standing water can collect (see backyard map)

Swimming or wading pools

- Remove any water that collects on pool covers
- Make sure the pool's pump is circulating water
- Turn over wading pools when not in use
- Don't leave out children's toys, cups, etc.

Eaves and drains

- Make sure drainage ditches are not clogged
- Check flat roofs for any standing water

Yard and lawn

- Fill in any low lying areas that can collect water
- Check knots in trees
- Repair leaky pipes and outside faucets and remove air conditioner drain hoses frequently
- Thin out and clean debris under shrubbery where mosquitoes breed and rest
- Let your neighbors know about potential mosquito breeding grounds on their property

Keep mosquitoes out of the house

- Make certain that door and window screens fit tightly and do not have holes
- If there are no screens, keep doors and windows closed from evening until dawn

IS YOUR BACKYARD A BREEDING SITE?

Find all the places

where *Aedes Aegypti* can breed!

