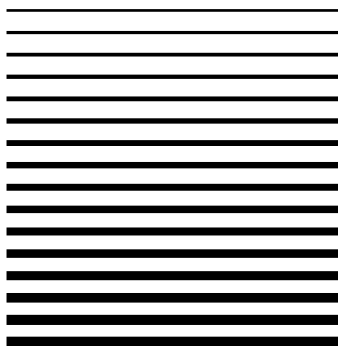
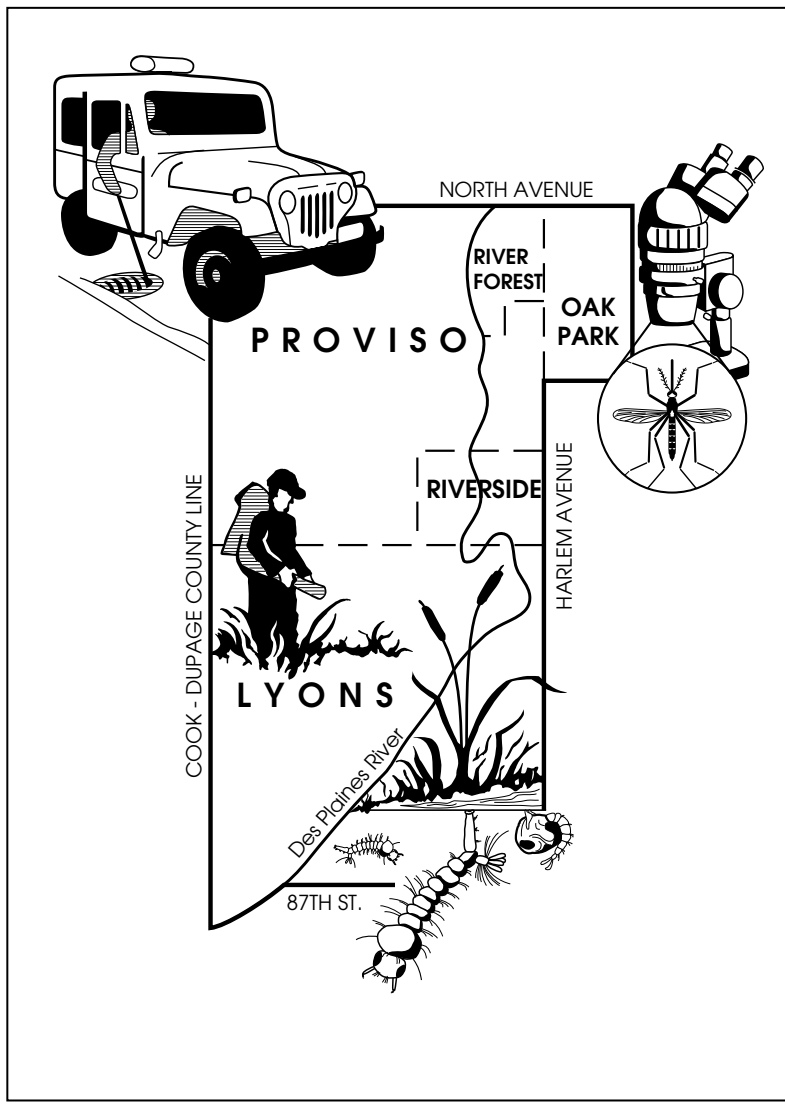


**Desplaines Valley**  
Mosquito Abatement District

# 2009 OPERATIONS REPORT



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**EIGHTY SECOND  
OPERATIONS REPORT ON MOSQUITO CONTROL  
2009  
DESPLAINES VALLEY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT**

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**2009 OPERATIONS REPORT ON MOSQUITO CONTROL  
DESPLAINES VALLEY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT**

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December 4, 2009

Dr. Damon T. Arnold, Director  
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
535 W. Jefferson Street  
Springfield, IL 62761-0001

Sir:

□ Presented herewith is the 82nd report summarizing mosquito control operations of the Desplaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District during 2009 to fulfill requirements specified by Illinois Statute.

□ West Nile Virus (WNV) activity was generally present at low levels throughout our area. Climatic conditions this season were not conducive to significant viral amplification with only isolated pockets of escalated WNV viral activity experienced. Major rainfall during late-May into early-June created a significant population of nuisance mosquitoes around the 4th of July holiday period.

□ Legislation enacted during 2004 through SB2879 requires mosquito abatement districts to conduct routine surveillance for the presence of mosquito-borne diseases. The District continued use of the RAMP (Rapid Analyte Measurement Platform) system to monitor viral activity for WNV within adult *Culex pipiens/restuans* mosquito populations. The District also continued limited use of the VecTest antigen panel assay test primarily to monitor for St. Louis Encephalitis viral activity. Both test systems provided crucial information on localized viral activity within our boundaries. As WNV activity increased in specific areas, adult control measures were utilized to reduce potential transmission cycles.

□ The Desplaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District routinely maintains an aggressive larval control program against both nuisance and vector mosquitoes. Control operations started in early April and continued into early October with a variety of measures as described in detail within this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis P. Creadon, Jr.  
President, Board of Trustees

# OPERATIONS REPORT FOR 2009

## Introduction

The concept of mosquito abatement is often misunderstood by the general public. More often than not, the public's perception of mosquito abatement is a truck driving up and down streets dispersing aerosol insecticide. All other functions are wrongfully deemed as secondary or of minimal significance in the public's eye. The goal of this report is to hopefully rectify these misconceptions by providing background information on the District, mosquitoes in our area, and control activities. Control activities are defined by priority, and include a summary of methods, products, and quantities utilized.

## Area and Organization

The Desplaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District encompasses a 77 square mile area of the Des Plaines River and Salt Creek valley in the western suburbs of Chicago, Illinois. This area is bound by the Cook-DuPage county line on the west, North Avenue on the north, 87th Street/Des Plaines River on the south, and Harlem Avenue on the east except in Oak Park where Austin Boulevard is the eastern boundary. The District is comprised of Lyons, Oak Park, Proviso, Riverside, and River Forest townships and includes thirty one villages. The District expanded to its current size in late 1999 with the annexation of territory in southern Lyons Township.

The District is intersected from north to south by the Des Plaines River and in the southern quarter by the Sanitary Drainage and Ship Canal. Other waterways include three major creeks flowing into the Des Plaines River and 4.5 miles of ponded water of the defunct Illinois and Michigan Canal. Property composition is estimated as 73 percent residential, 18 percent industrial, 8 percent Forest Preserves, and 1 percent rural or undeveloped.

The Desplaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District is an independent municipality, established in 1927 by the "Mosquito Abatement Districts Act" which provided for the organization of tax supported mosquito abatement districts within Illinois. It is one of the two original mosquito abatement districts formed under this Act. The District was initially established to control nuisance mosquitoes, primarily *Aedes vexans* (Meigen) which were produced annually from predominant lowland plains and marshes. However, as more knowledge was attained about specific species and their direct link to disease transmission established, this new dimension of disease vector control was added to the purpose of mosquito abatement. Currently, both nuisance and vector control operations are carried out by the District. Since its inception, the District's control measures have undoubtedly been influential in the residential and industrial growth of the area.

The District is administered by a five member Board of Trustees who are appointed by the Cook County Board for four year terms as provided by Illinois statute. The trustees serve without compensation. Five full-time employees comprise the permanent staff. During the summer months, up to twenty four seasonal employees are employed.

Operations are financed totally from a tax on real estate within the five townships of the District. The District operates on an annual appropriation for the fiscal year from May 1 through April 30, and according to law is authorized to levy taxes up to and including 0.025 per hundred dollars of assessed valuation for its general corporate fund. For the past ten years, the total tax rate has averaged 0.012, well below this maximum, with a rate of 0.012 experienced for funds collected during 2009. Financial information is summarized in a separate report prepared by an independent auditor at the close of each fiscal year.

## Mosquito-Borne Diseases

Several species of mosquito are capable of transmitting diseases to humans. Mosquito-borne diseases have been a serious, destructive force around the world throughout history. In northern Illinois, two primary diseases are of concern to the District. These are West Nile Virus (WNV) and St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE). WNV and SLE are closely related with details in following sections.

Three other encephalitis viruses carried by mosquitoes are also found in Illinois. These are LaCrosse Encephalitis (LAC), Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE), and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). At this time, these viruses are not considered a serious problem in northern Illinois. Parasitic malaria, once a serious cause of disease in Illinois, is also not considered as a potential problem. Finally, canine heartworm is transmitted by mosquitoes and is a current problem in the state.

### West Nile Virus (WNV)

WNV was first discovered in the United States in New York City during 1999. It has since spread south and west with confirmation in northern Illinois during 2001. In 2002, an epidemic of WNV in Illinois resulted in 884 human cases of the disease with 66 deaths. WNV is caused by a virus that cycles between mosquitoes and birds, with occasional spill-over into humans and other mammals. The virus can have a high mortality in certain bird species while having little effect on other bird species. Crows and Blue Jays are extremely susceptible to the virus, as are eagles, hawks, and other raptors. Humans are considered a dead-end host for the virus, which cannot be transmitted from person to person. WNV affects the central nervous system causing an inflammation of the brain. Most human infections are mild and subclinical (not diagnosed). Symptoms associated with mild cases of WNV are low fever, headache, body aches, and swollen lymph glands. Less than 1% of people infected with WNV will develop severe illness. In more severe cases, symptoms can be high fever, neck stiffness, muscle weakness, stupor, coma, tremors, paralysis, and in 3-15% of severe human infections, death. People over 50 are most susceptible to WNV, but all ages are at risk.

Mosquitoes from the genus *Culex*, in particular the species *Culex pipiens*, are the vector of WNV from birds to birds and birds to humans. These mosquitoes deposit their eggs in raft clusters of 50-400 eggs directly on the water's surface. They are most abundant in periods lacking rainfall, when areas of stagnant water prevail. They are well adapted to many habitats including curbside storm water catch basins, off-road storm water catch basins, discarded tires, buckets & other artificial containers, rain gutters, bird baths, unused swimming pools, ditches, ponds, etc. Anywhere that water can stand for more than a week can become a potential breeding source for *Culex* mosquitoes. The adult mosquito is a non-aggressive biter with feeding primarily confined to evening or night hours. The adult mosquito seldom travels more than 2 mile from its source. The *Culex* mosquitoes can have many over-lapping generations each season, and over-winter as adults.

### St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE)

As with WNV, SLE is caused by a virus that cycles between mosquitoes and birds, with occasional spill-over into humans and other mammals. Humans are considered a dead-end host for the virus, which cannot be transmitted from person to person. Unlike WNV, the virus has little effect on birds that are infected. SLE affects the central nervous system causing an inflammation of the brain. Most human infections are subclinical (mild and not diagnosed) exhibiting flu-like symptoms. More severe cases can exhibit high fever, nausea, headache, personality changes, paralysis, and in 2-20% of the severe cases, death. The elderly are most susceptible to SLE. An epidemic of SLE within Illinois occurred in 1975, with a few cases reported in the 1980's and 1990's.

The mosquitoes that transmit (vector) SLE are the same as WNV, with description under that category.

### Other Encephalitis Viruses

*LaCrosse Encephalitis (LAC)* is caused by a virus that cycles between mosquitoes and small mammals as chipmunks and ground squirrels. Humans are considered a dead-end host. LAC is endemic in Illinois with 5-15 cases per year, primarily occurring in local foci in central and northwestern regions of the state. The majority of LAC cases are mild and subclinical. Less than 1% fatality occurs in cases severe enough to be diagnosed. Children under the age of 16 are most susceptible to this virus. As with other mosquito-borne encephalitis, LAC cannot be transmitted from

person to person. The eastern tree hole mosquito, *Ochlerotatus triseriatus* (formerly *Aedes triseriatus*) is the vector of this disease. This mosquito normally develops in water filled rot cavities in trees (tree holes), but has adapted well to many man-made habitats as discarded tires, buckets, and other artificial containers. The *Ochlerotatus triseriatus* adult mosquito lays its eggs singly on the inside wall of the tree hole or artificial container just above the waterline. The adult mosquito is an aggressive biter with feeding all day long, and generally stays within the vicinity of its source. The *Ochlerotatus triseriatus* has one generation each season, and over-winters in the egg stage.

*Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE)* is similar to SLE, cycling between birds and mosquitoes with rare spill-over to the human population. WEE primarily affects horses, and is typically found west of the Mississippi River, but has also been found in Illinois. Human cases severe enough to be diagnosed can have a 2-5% fatality. The primary vector of WEE is *Culex tarsalis*, and possibly *Culex pipiens*. The *Culex tarsalis*, like other *Culex*, lay eggs in rafts directly on the water's surface. The mosquito can be found in sunlit sources with high organic content as ditches and artificial containers. The mosquito seldom travels more than 1 mile from its source, however has been known to travel up to 10 miles. This species has continuous generations each season, and over-winters as adults.

*Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)* is another virus that cycles between birds and mosquitoes with horses and humans as dead-end hosts. Human infections of EEE can range from mild to severe, with 50-75% of diagnosed severe cases resulting in death. Fortunately, human cases of EEE are rare with only 150 cases throughout the United States from 1964-1998. No human cases of EEE have been reported in Illinois, although the virus has been found regularly in bird populations. The primary vector of EEE is *Coquillettidia perturbans*, a mosquito found in wetlands. They lay their eggs in rafts directly on the water's surface. The mosquito is an aggressive biter, strong flier, and feeds during the evening or night. This species usually has one generation each season, and over-winters as larvae attached to the stems of cattails or similar aquatic plants.

#### **Other Mosquito-Borne Diseases**

*Malaria* is a disease caused by a protozoan parasite transmitted from person to person via the mosquito. At one time, malaria was prevalent in Illinois, with concentration in the southern part of the state. Mosquito control efforts in the 1920's have eliminated the risk of malaria in Illinois, although the mosquito which carries the disease, *Anopheles quadrimaculatus*, is still found in the area.

*Dengue and Yellow Fever* are both diseases caused by viruses that are transmitted by mosquitoes. They are common in the Caribbean, South America, Asia, and Africa, but are unlikely to occur in Illinois.

*Canine (Dog) Heartworm* is a disease affecting dogs that is transmitted by mosquitoes. It is caused by a roundworm, *Dirofilaria imitus*. The *Culex pipiens* and possibly *Aedes vexans* are the vectors in our area. The disease is ongoing and best controlled by prevention. Veterinarians typically prescribe drugs to prevent the roundworm larvae development in dogs.

#### **HIV in Mosquitoes**

Mosquito-borne viruses must be able to multiply and infect the salivary glands of the mosquito. This does *not* occur when HIV is ingested by mosquitoes. Studies have concluded that mosquitoes are not a factor in HIV transmission.

## Surveillance

### Weather Surveillance

The weather is the most dominating factor affecting mosquito production. All mosquitoes spend their larval and pupal stages of development in water, consequently rainfall is critical to their existence. In addition, temperature governs their rate of development and is a secondary variable in their life cycle. Over forty species of mosquito are found within Illinois, and each has environmental conditions best suited to its development. The *Aedes vexans* and *Culex pipiens* with related species are the primary mosquitoes found within the District. In general, heavy rains followed by warm temperatures create the potential for a major population of the floodwater annoyance mosquito, *Aedes vexans*. In contrast, dry conditions creating areas of “stagnant” water are ideal for prolific production of many vector-related mosquitoes as *Culex pipiens* and related species.

The District monitors all relevant weather parameters with equipment at its headquarters in Lyons, IL. Weather data is also obtained from the National Weather Service based at O’Hare Airport directly north of the District. All weather data is correlated to District mosquito control operations.

### Temperature

The following table summarizes temperature data for 2009 from the National Weather Service:

	Normal Temperature (Deg F)	O’Hare Temperature (Deg F)	Deviation from Normal (Deg F)
April	47.8	47.2	-0.6
May	58.7	59.9	+1.2
June	68.2	67.6	-0.6
July	73.3	69.4	-3.9
August	71.7	70.5	-1.2
September	63.8	65.3	+1.5

### Rainfall

The following table summarizes rainfall data for 2009 from the National Weather Service:

	Normal Rainfall (Inches)	O’Hare Rainfall (Inches)	Deviation from Normal(Inches)
April	3.68	5.19	+1.51
May	3.38	3.63	+0.25
June	3.63	7.18	+3.55
July	3.51	1.53	-1.98
August	4.62	4.26	-0.36
September	3.27	1.03	-2.24

In addition, recording rain gauges were operated at various locations within the District to reflect localized rainfall conditions. Respective rainfall data is summarized in the following table:

Localized Rainfall Totals (Inches)							
	Berkeley	LaGrange Park	Lyons	River Forest	Roberts Park	Willow Springs	O'Hare
April	----	----	3.69	----	----	----	5.19
May	3.44	4.90	3.80	3.40	4.52	4.94	3.63
June	3.60	3.85	3.48	3.37	5.57	5.41	7.18
July	1.57	2.06	2.39	3.68	1.61	1.99	1.53
August	4.81	4.15	3.76	5.58	NA	4.45	4.26
September	0.79	1.06	0.63	1.06	NA	0.83	1.03

**Mosquito Surveillance and Identification**

Larval and adult mosquito surveys are the base of our control program and are conducted on a regular basis to determine the extent, type, and concentration of mosquito populations within the District. The surveys are essential to the coordination and success of all control measures.

**Larval Surveillance**

Larval samples are the most basic, whereby potential mosquito breeding sources are inspected regularly within a 14 day period. Larval samples are taken from sites found breeding, and are identified by the laboratory staff as to species. All potential sources are marked on permanent maps and numbered for reference. Individual source histories are maintained on computerized records.

**Adult Surveillance**

Adult mosquito populations within the District are monitored by the use of light traps and gravid traps. During 2009, ten New Jersey light traps with the capability to make unattended, individual collections over weekends were utilized. The light traps were operated from 7:00pm to 6:00am nightly during the period of May 11 to October 4. Collections were made each morning, Monday through Friday, with all samples classified by the laboratory staff as to genera, species, and sex.

A comparison of the 2006-2009 species classification of adult female mosquitoes is summarized in the following table. In addition, daily mean counts for *Aedes vexans* and *Culex* species from nine light traps are graphically shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2. The District uses the William's mean number of female adults per trap to summarize *Aedes vexans* and *Culex* species light trap data. The William's mean is calculated by taking the mean of the trap count's logarithms, and then taking the antilog of that mean. This method reduces the influence of any single trap with extreme data, and hence more accurately represents the true majority of light trap data.

<b>Comparison of Light Trap Data - Adult Female Mosquitoes</b>				
	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>Aedes/Ochlerotatus</b>				
Oc. canadensis	0	0	0	0
Ae. cinereus	0	0	1	0
Oc. grossbecki	0	1	0	2
Oc. fitchii	1	0	0	0
Oc. japonicus	0	0	7	47
Oc. sticticus	0	2	4	28
Oc. stimulans	0	0	0	0
Oc. triseriatus	45	35	26	8
Oc. trivittatus	20	312	642	196
Ae. vexans	6,280	24,962	21,004	22,838
<b>Anopheles</b>				
barberi	0	0	0	0
punctipennis	127	339	122	181
quadrifasciatus	13	24	24	5
walkeri	0	0	0	0
<b>Coquillettidia</b>				
perturbans	5	16	85	245
<b>Culex</b>				
erraticus	0	1	1	0
pipiens/restuans	3,998	4,944	5,678	6,595
salinarius	0	2	1	1
tarsalis	1	6	1	1
territans	18	101	1	0
<b>Culiseta</b>				
inornata	62	53	52	50
minnesotae	0	0	0	0
morsitans	0	0	0	0
<b>Orthopodomyia</b>				
signifera	9	18	13	12
<b>Psorophora</b>				
ciliata	0	1	0	2
columbiae	0	0	0	1
ferox	0	0	0	1
howardii	0	0	0	0
<b>Uranotaenia</b>				
sapphirina	138	356	261	189
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>10,717</b>	<b>31,173</b>	<b>27,924</b>	<b>30,402</b>
<b>Number of Nights:</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>147</b>

Note: 2006 – 9 traps, reduced from 10

Note: 2008 - 10 traps, added one trap

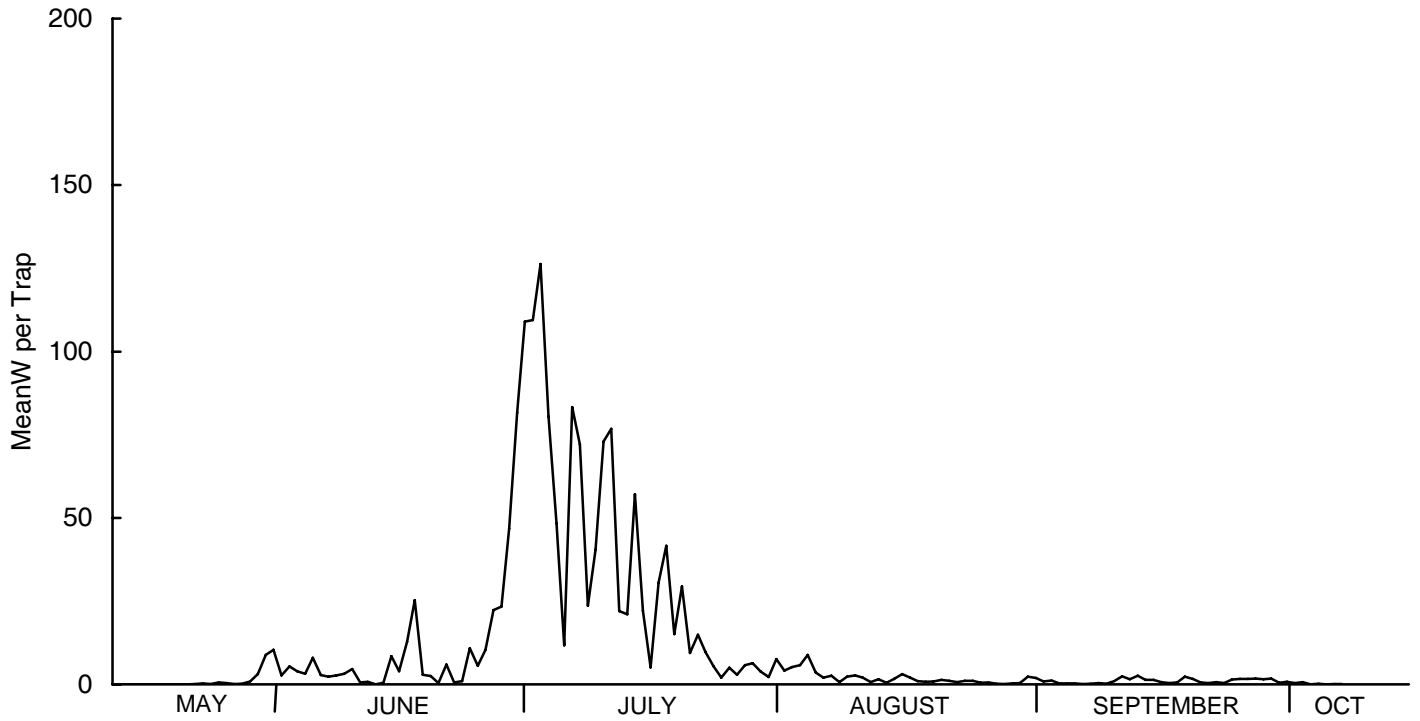


Figure 1. Female *Aedes vexans* William's mean number mosquitoes per trap

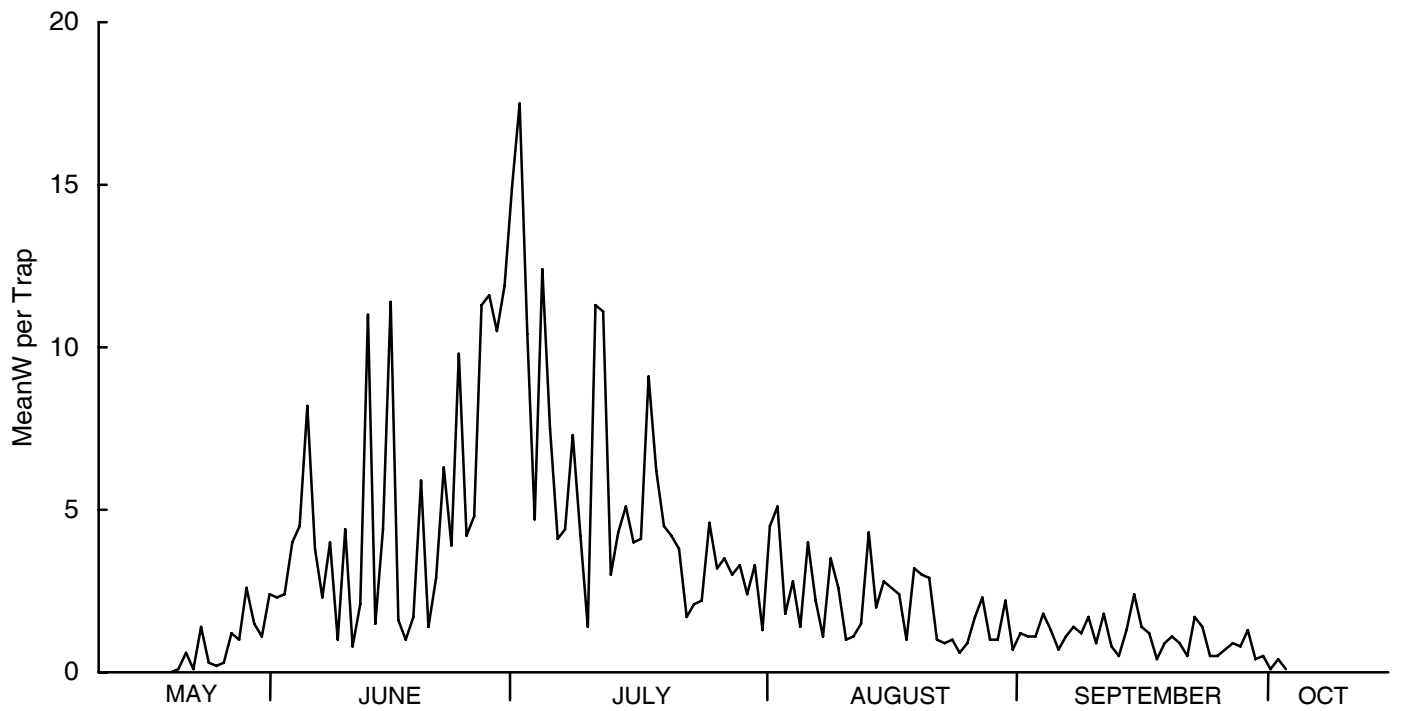


Figure 2. Female *Culex* species William's mean number mosquitoes per trap

Along with light traps, gravid traps are also used. 17 gravid traps were used to monitor *Culex* population levels. Figure 3 summarizes the William's mean number of gravid females per gravid trap for 2009. The William's mean is calculated as previously described.

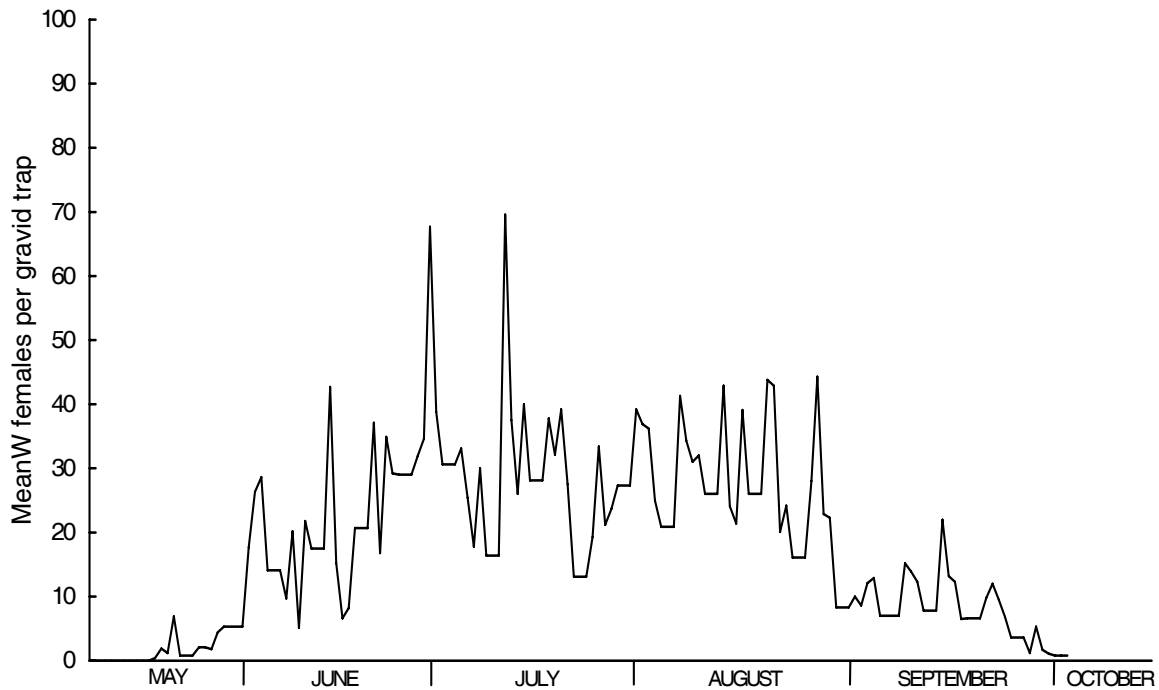


Figure 3. Female *Culex* species William's mean number mosquitoes per gravid trap

## Disease Vector Surveillance

### Gravid Traps

Gravid traps are specialized traps that collect live gravid adult female mosquitoes, primarily *Culex* species. Gravid mosquitoes are female mosquitoes that have taken a blood meal and are ready to lay eggs. Because they have taken at least one blood meal, it is more likely that they have been exposed to WNV or SLE. The District uses gravid traps to sample the adult female *Culex* mosquito population to test for the presence of disease viruses. In 2004, the state legislature passed Senate Bill SB2879 that requires Mosquito Abatement Districts to test mosquitoes for the presence of mosquito borne diseases and to report positive results to the local health department within 24 hours. The District has already been in compliance since the 2002 mosquito season. The District currently uses 17 gravid traps evenly distributed throughout the District. The samples from these traps were tested in-house with either the RAMP test or the dipstick test as described in the next section and then sent to the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) for confirmation with the RT-PCR test.

### RAMP Test and VecTest Dipstick Test for WNV & SLE

The potential for the occurrence, amplification, and spill-over to the human population of mosquito-borne disease is a combination of numerous factors. Two mosquito-related factors, in combination, are important in the WNV and SLE cycles. These factors are the mosquito vector population levels and the infection rate within the vector mosquito population. The District has been tracking vector (*Culex spp.*) population levels for many years. In-house testing of the mosquito population for the presence of a disease organism (in the case of WNV and SLE, a virus) began in 2002.

During 2009, the District continued monitoring the mosquito population for the presence of WNV and SLE. The RAMP (Rapid Analyte Measurement Platform) system was the primary in-house test used to detect the presence of WNV. It is more sensitive than the “dipstick test”, and will detect WNV at lower levels. However, the “dipstick test” (VecTest WNV/SLE Antigen Panel Assay) was also used primarily to test for the presence of SLE.

Following is a table that summarizes the RAMP, VecTest, and RT-PCR results:

A summary of 2009 RAMP/VecTest & RT-PCR results for WNV For 17 Gravid Traps (Pools contain up to 50 female <i>Culex spp.</i> mosquitoes)					
Week Of	Total Pools	VecTest/RAMP		RT-PCR	
		# Positive	% Positive	# Positive	% Positive
5/11 – 5/17	16	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
5/18 – 5/25	27	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
5/26 – 5/31	70	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
6/01 – 6/07	68	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
6/08 – 6/14	77	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
6/15 – 6/21	114	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
6/22 – 6/28	146	1	0.7%	1	0.7%
6/29 – 7/05	89	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
7/06 – 7/12	139	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
7/13 - 7/19	100	2	2.0%	2	2.0%
7/20 - 7/26	91	3	3.3%	2	2.2%
7/27 - 8/02	104	2	1.9%	1	1.0%
8/03 - 8/09	115	8	7.0%	11	9.6%
8/10 - 8/16	109	9	8.3%	11	10.1%
8/17 - 8/23	95	4	4.2%	4	4.2%
8/24 - 8/30	76	11	14.5%	12	15.8%
8/31 - 9/07	47	3	6.4%	2	4.3%
9/08 - 9/13	39	2	5.1%	2	5.1%
9/14 - 9/20	42	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
9/21 - 9/27	31	2	6.5%	3	9.7%
9/28 - 10/04	17	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

### Larval Mosquito Control

The mosquito, an insect, has four distinct stages in its life cycle: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. During the larval/pupal stages, mosquitoes are confined to water and as such are localized and concentrated in numbers. Once mosquitoes reach the adult stage, they become dispersed and difficult to effectively control. Hence, the primary mosquito control efforts utilized by the Desplaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District focus on larval/pupal control and/or source elimination. This approach allows mosquitoes to be controlled in the most efficient, environmentally safest, and with the most economical methods available. All control methods are accepted and recommended in guidelines established by the Illinois Department of Public Health, and are continuously evaluated by the District to ensure desired goals. The respective aspects of this approach encompass the following:

- a) Source Inspection & Larval/Pupal Control with Insecticides - Chemical and Biological
  - General larval division
  - Street catch basin division
  - Off-road catch basin division
  - Fish distribution
- b) Physical Source Reduction & Maintenance
  - Tire collect/disposal
  - Drainage
  - Public Education

### **Source Inspection & Larval/Pupal Control with Insecticides - Biological & Other**

The District's source inspection and larval/pupal control program is the most comprehensive measure utilized. Potential mosquito breeding sources within the District range from roadside ditches, catch basins, retention ponds, swamps, marshes, and creeks, to extensive flood plains. However, any place where water may remain for 10-14 days becomes a potential mosquito source. Hence, known sources are inspected within this interval to ensure desired control goals before mosquitoes reach the adult stage.

Source inspection and larval/pupal control measures are categorized into three distinct operations: general larval, street catch basin, and off-road catch basin. General larval operations include all potential sources with the exception of catch basins, which due to their number and density within the District warrant separate consideration. These operations are summarized respectively in the remainder of this category.

#### **General Larval Operations**

The District is divided into sections with numerous sub-sections. Two-member teams equipped with motorized and hand equipment for larval/pupal control are assigned to respective sections/sub-sections. The teams are responsible for inspecting potential breeding sites within their area and applying appropriate insecticide only to those sources where mosquito breeding is actually found. Teams collect data on source condition, size, breeding density, larval samples, any treatment required, etc. All data collected is entered into the District's computer system to compile a source history. Data collected is also used by teams conducting post-treatment inspections to verify insecticide and operational effectiveness.

With the arrival of WNV in Illinois and its potential impact on bird populations, area zoos have been confronted with the need to protect their exotic bird collections. The Chicago Zoological Society's Brookfield Zoo is located within the District. The Brookfield Zoo and the District continue the cooperative effort to control vector mosquitoes on their property. The District routinely addresses catch basins and out-of-exhibit sources on Zoo property. The District also inspects and treats sources within exhibits that are accessible without the need to remove animals from the area. Zoo personnel address sources that require removal of animals.

During 2009, the District utilized two forms of biological insecticide, three forms of an insect growth regulator, and one degradable oil in various aspects of its general larval/pupal control program. The biological insecticides are derived from the bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*, commonly known as BTI. The active ingredient in BTI derived insecticides is an extract (crystal toxin) of fermented cultures, which is ingested by mosquito larvae. The BTI's are selective against mosquito and blackfly larvae only, and are deemed as the environmentally safest insecticides available for mosquito larval control. The BTI's utilized by the District consisted of aqueous suspension (liquid) and granular forms. The BTI's are not effective against mosquito pupae since they do not feed during this stage of their life cycle. Hence a light surface oil, commonly known as larvicide oil, was used on all sources where pupae were present or in sources with a high organic content which can render the BTI's ineffective.

The insect growth regulator, commonly known as IGR, consists of methoprene. Methoprene does not control larvae by direct toxic action, but interferes with the physiological processes associated with the mosquito's metamorphosis. Thus the larvae are prevented from changing into and emerging as an adult mosquito. The District used a pellet form and two briquet forms of methoprene.

All products were applied as recommended and are approved for mosquito control use by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The District’s policy of insecticide application remained the same as in previous years, requiring treatment of only those waters actually found to contain mosquito larvae/pupae. With the exception of IGR application, the District does not utilize a pre-hatch treatment program, ie. treatment of water in anticipation of future mosquito breeding.

A summary of 2009 general larval operational data						
	Mar/April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept/Oct
Vectobac 12AS-BTI (1)	11	2	----	----	----	----
Aquabac XT-BTI (2)	8	12	----	----	----	----
Granular BTI (3)	----	2630	6190	2880	2500	1680
Larvicide Oil (4)	51	624	608	219	55	115
Altosid Pellets (5)	----	562	562	469	520	87
Altosid 30-day Briq.(6)	----	22	23	44	21	10
Altosid XR Briq. (7)	----	158	49	17	14	----

(1) Vectobac 12AS BTI (gal) aqueous suspension concentrates as produced by Valent Biosciences with an application rate of 1-2 pints/acre.

(2) Aquabac XT BTI (gal) aqueous suspension concentrates as produced by Becker Microbial Products with an application rate of 1-2 pints/acre.

(3) VectobacG granular BTI (lbs) as produced by Valent Biosciences with an application rate of 10-20 lbs/acre.

(4) BVA-2 Larvicide Oil (gal) as produced by BVA Oils with an application rate of 1-2 gal/acre

(5) Altosid pellets IGR (lbs) as produced by Wellmark International with an application rate of 5 lbs/acre.

(6) Altosid 30-day Briquets IGR (pcs) produced by Wellmark International with an application rate of 1 per 100 square feet.

(7) Altosid XR Briquets IGR (pcs) produced by Wellmark International with an application rate of 1 per 100 square feet.

**Street Catch Basin & Off-Road Basin(ORB) Operations**

The storm water catch basin is the primary source of breeding for the *Culex pipiens/restuans* species of mosquitoes. The District contains thousands of catch basins situated in streets, parking lots, and off-road areas. These basins allow water to drain from required areas during periods of rainfall. Most catch basins by design have a “sump” to prevent debris from entering the drainage pipe. This “sump” also retains water, making the catch basin ideal for mosquito production. Their regular inspection and treatment as necessary is a routine part of our larval/pupal control program.

Due to the varied location of catch basins within the District, control operations are categorized into on-road basins (accessible to vehicle mounted spray equipment) and off-road basins (inaccessible to vehicle mounted spray equipment). As in general larval/pupal control operations, the District is divided into sections with numerous sub-sections. On-road catch basins are treated with larvicide oil due to its effectiveness on both larval and pupal stages of mosquito development. Treatment is accomplished with the use of 7 right-hand drive AM General Dispatchers equipped with pressurized sprayers that delivered larvicide oil at the touch of a foot switch from a spray wand inserted by the driver into each basin. Off-road catch basins are treated with Altosid 30-day Briquets to obtain longer-term control and accommodate the physical difficulty in reaching many of these basins. Treatment requires a person to walk from basin to basin with manual application of the briquets.

In recent years, new development and the re-development of existing areas have resulted in dramatic increases in numbers of both on-road and off-road catch basins. Off-road basins, cataloged and treated since 1987, have increased at the greatest rate. Operations have expanded annually to accommodate treatment requirements of the additional catch basins.

A summary of 2009 catch basin data						
Month	# of Basins Treated	Gallons Larvicide Oil (1)	Off-road Basins Treated	# of 30-day Briq. (2)	# of XR Briq. (3)	# of WSP (4)
April	----	----	----	----	----	----
May	26,163	422	4075	3901	174	----
June	72,430	1180	8997	8527	470	----
July	96,638	1505	8720	7900	20	800
August	63,963	1026	4756	4756	----	----
Sept/Oct	58,306	910	4194	4194	----	----

(1) BVA-2 Larvicide Oil (gal) as produced by BVA Oils with an application rate of 1-3 fl oz/basin.  
(2) Altosid 30-day Briquets IGR (pcs) produced by Wellmark International with an application rate of 1pc./basin.  
(3) Altosid XR Briquets IGR (pcs) produced by Wellmark International with an application rate of 1pc./basin.  
(4) Altosid WSP (pouches) produced by Wellmark International with an application rate of 1pouch/basin.

### Biological Larval/Pupal Control - Fish

The District uses a surface feeding minnow, *Gambusia affinis* commonly called the mosquito fish, for biological or natural control of mosquito larvae/pupae. The fish are utilized in sources capable of sustaining them as an alternative to insecticide control. In addition, the fish are provided to residents at no charge for stocking of ornamental ponds.

### Physical Source Reduction & Maintenance

#### Tire Collection & Disposal

Abandoned vehicle tires have become a major source of mosquito production in recent years. With the introduction of used tire recycling fees by dealers, people often choose to dispose of old tires themselves. With the discovery that used tires will not be collected with regular refuse, an increased number of "fly-dumped" tires have appeared in the District.

Many of the species of mosquito that develop in tires are known to be potential vectors of disease. Tires are difficult to treat because they tend to be scattered in small numbers, often in hard to reach areas. In addition, the treatment of discarded tires with larvicide is not only labor intensive, but has limited effectiveness when tires are in random piles. Areas that have abandoned tires are not only unsightly, but tend to attract further dumping of old tires.

The collection and proper disposal of discarded tires is by far the best way to control mosquito production in this type of source. It is a permanent solution that costs less in the long run over other alternatives. Other benefits to this solution include reduced use of pesticides, removing unsightly debris, and discouraging further accumulation of discarded tires.

In March, 1996, the District obtained a Waste Tire Transporter license from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to allow for the transport of discarded tires collected within the District. Recently, the IEPA has assisted the District in the disposal of abandoned tires by picking up the collected tires at the District headquarters and removing them to a recycling facility. During 2009, the District collected and disposed of over 700 fly-dumped tires found throughout the district. The District will continue to collect discarded tires within its service area in the future.

**Drainage & Ditch Cleaning**

Source reduction, or the physical removal of mosquito breeding areas, is the only permanent method of mosquito control. However, it is usually the most difficult and expensive, and is often controversial in an urbanized area because the resulting land improvement may profit an individual along with the public. Source reduction is also controversial because drainage of an area may affect non-target organisms and wildlife. The District therefore limits physical source reduction to areas where it will do the most public good and continues its basic policy of not draining permanent ponds and of limiting ditches to the slow drainage of temporary waters within a 5-7 day period.

Urbanization often alters source reduction progress as a prolific breeding site may be filled or paved eliminating one problem while producing another. Construction may block a natural or existing drainage ditch, which would require re-routing of the drainage system, or might even create an entirely new breeding area where none had previously existed. The District is constantly on the alert for this type of situation, and attempts to correct the situation before it becomes a problem. The District requests all individuals, industries, and municipalities to cooperate with the District to correct mosquito breeding areas that have been inadvertently created by their actions.

During 2009, as in prior years, emphasis was placed on the maintenance of existing drainage systems. Primary systems in need of annual attention are located within the Forest Preserves. The systems were originally constructed by our District under the W.P.A. and C.C.C. projects of the 1930's. Routine maintenance each fall includes the cleaning of all rock filters situated at inlets to existing drainage systems to ensure proper run-off next spring. Special projects can range from the replacement of culverts under trails which have collapsed causing blockage, to the re-construction of existing drainage systems which have silted in and are no longer functional.

Finally, the maintenance of existing trails providing access to mosquito breeding sources and harborage areas falls under the category of source reduction and maintenance. All access trails are trimmed regularly to prevent over-growth. The trails are located in the Forest Preserves and along undeveloped areas of Salt Creek, Flag Creek, and the Des Plaines River.

**Source Reduction Through Public Education**

The combined efforts of any mosquito abatement program cannot succeed without the assistance of the public. Consequently, keeping the public informed of the mosquito's life cycle and the simple steps they can take to eliminate potential breeding sources around the home is an essential part of our program.

The District internet web site was established in 2006 to provide thorough and up-to-date information for the residents of the District. It includes general information on mosquitoes and their control as well as steps the public can take to protect themselves from mosquito annoyance and potential disease transmission. In addition, it provides the date and locations of any planned contingency residential adult mosquito control operations. A news section gives residents timely updates on current conditions and reminders of the ways they can help protect themselves and those around them. The site is found at [www.desplainesvalleymad.com](http://www.desplainesvalleymad.com).

During the 2009 mosquito season, news reports appeared in local newspapers, on village web sites, and in village newsletters outlining the steps homeowners can take to control mosquito development on their property as well as information about the operations of the District. In addition, mailings to village administrators and public service officials were made to keep them informed of our activities within their jurisdictions. Informational pamphlets about the District and mosquito-borne diseases were distributed through village hall offices, libraries, public requests, and by field crews.

The District annually receives numerous inquiries and requests from the public. Each inquiry is handled on an individual basis. This form of informational assistance has proven to be one of the most effective methods in public education.

## Adult Mosquito Control

The District does not conduct routine adult control operations. Adult control is the least effective approach to mosquito control with only localized, temporary benefits. However, adult control is the *only tool* available to use against an adult mosquito population which is involved in a disease transmission cycle. Hence, the District will only implement residential adult control operations as a contingency measure for vector related mosquitoes.

The ultra-low volume insecticide aerosol application process as initiated in 1971 is utilized in any adult control operations. All truck mounted equipment utilized by the District is equipped with automatic flow control which directly regulates insecticide application to vehicle speed, thus ensuring accurate application rates. Adult control operations are conducted only when environmental constraints of ambient air temperature between 65-80°F and wind speeds in the 2-8 mph range are satisfied to optimize effectiveness.

### Harborage Adult Mosquito Control

When excessive numbers of adult *Aedes vexans* and related *nuisance* species of mosquito are experienced due to migrations from outside the District's area, adult control measures are conducted within specific harborage areas. Harborage areas are defined as densely vegetated or wooded areas typically outside of residential areas where adult mosquitoes *rest* or *harbor* and are concentrated in numbers prior to continued migration. Such harborage areas include vegetated swamps and numerous wooded areas along flood plains, the Sanitary Drainage & Ship Canal, the I & M Canal, Des Plaines River, and several creeks. Areas within the Cook County Forest Preserve District are not included in this operation per their request. Harborage adult mosquito control measures are only considered when light trap data in any given area indicates a William's Mean average of 35 adult female mosquitoes over a consecutive 3-day period. This 3-day average indicates that a migratory population has actually *stabilized* in the area. Adult control measures would focus on *hot spots* experiencing problems. The District utilizes two specially equipped four-wheel drive trucks with mounted ultra-low volume adult control equipment. Harborage site treatment is conducted during the dawn hours when sufficient daylight is present to negotiate off-road terrain typically encountered in harborage areas, yet satisfy temperature and wind criteria permitted for adult control operations.

### Residential Adult Mosquito Control

The District considers guidelines established by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) in their publication entitled "IDPH Surveillance and Response Procedures for Mosquito-borne Arbovirus Emergencies" and the Center for Disease Control in consideration of residential adult mosquito control operations. Operations will be focused against specific vector populations of *Culex pipiens* and related species in an effort to minimize or break a viral transmission cycle.

During 2009, criteria in the referenced guidelines were met for West Nile Virus (WNV) to initiate localized residential adult mosquito control operations. Specific criteria considered are the following:

#### Primary Triggers

- a) *Positive Mosquito Pools* - Confirmation of viral activity within the adult mosquito population. Our District operates a network of gravid traps to collect adult mosquito samples for subsequent testing of WNV & SLE. These traps are highly selective in collecting *Culex species* mosquitoes having had a blood meal and potential exposure to WNV or SLE. In-house testing using the RAMP system or the VecTest process, gives immediate results which are further sent to the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) for confirmation utilizing alternate tests.
- b) *Dead Birds* - Numbers of dead crows/blue jays/raptors and the time of year they are found. Subsequent confirmation by the IDPH of WNV within the dead birds.
- c) *Time of Season* - The point in any given mosquito season when *initial* positive bird and mosquito pool samples are confirmed. Positive samples early in the season set the stage for a developed viral amplification/transmission cycle, whereas initial positive samples late in the season would minimize this cycle.
- d) *Surrounding State Data* - Viral activity in adjacent states, particularly early in the season, is a precursor to activity in our state.

- e) *Equine Cases* - Confirmed equine cases are an indicator that a spillover from the bird population has occurred. Viral activity has amplified and escalated to a level where this occurs.
- f) *Human Cases* - Confirmed human cases or fatalities are the ultimate indicator that a spillover from the bird population has occurred, and is likely to continue.

**Secondary Triggers**

- a) *Vector Population Level* - A larger than normal vector population level poses a greater risk for spillover disease transmission to humans. But a low vector population does not imply that disease transmission will be minimal or disappear. Under the circumstances of a high infection rate, spillover transmission *will* occur even with a low vector population.
- b) *Weather: Rain & Temperature* - Rainfall can directly affect vector population levels. Water is required for all mosquito development, with rainfall influencing the number of potential breeding sources. Temperature on the other hand can affect *both* vector population levels and the viral amplification/transmission cycle. Above normal temperatures also can increase the viral transmission rate.

WNV activity within the District during 2009 was lower than in previous years. However, a higher level of WNV activity was experienced mid-August in the southeast region of the District. As a result, focal contingency residential adult control operations were conducted only in that area. A total of 87 linear miles of residential streets were treated in 2009.

Respective data for all adult mosquito control measures is summarized as follows:

	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
Anvil ULV (1)	---	---	2	2	14	---	---
(1) Anvil 10+10 sumithrin concentrate (concentrate in gal) mixed with BVA mineral oil carrier as manufactured by Clarke Mosquito Control Products with appl. rate 0.003 ai lbs./acre.							

## **Other District Activities**

### **Computer System**

Through the course of a year, the District's laboratory generates large amounts of data. In 1985, the District began using a computer system to store and retrieve that data in meaningful ways.

Data from the various components of the District's operations are stored in a database. This data consists of weather and other environmental data, mosquito population surveillance data, and actual larval/adult control information. From this data inspection and treatment reports can be generated, providing field personnel with information about what control measures should be initiated. It can also evaluate the success of those efforts.

Because of the computer's ability to access large amounts of information very quickly, the District is now able to evaluate the data in a timely way. This has enhanced the District's ability to execute mosquito control efforts as safely, efficiently, and economically as possible.

Conversion of the District's Larval Control Maps to vector-based computerized maps was completed in 1998. Map updates and changes are quicker and easier with computerized maps. Multiple copies of maps are consistent and easily created. Specialized maps for various uses are easily created. The creation of specialized maps will continue through the winter of 2009 as well as continuing updates and changes to the current maps.

### **Winter Activities**

The District owns and maintains all of its vehicles and equipment. During the winter months when weather conditions prohibit outside work, all equipment is cleaned, checked, and repaired as needed. Vehicles and equipment that are no longer economically feasible to operate are replaced. All new replacement vehicles/equipment must be adapted to meet the District's requirements. Consequently, the winter months provide an ideal opportunity for such an undertaking. Major shop and building maintenance programs are also carried out in the winter months by District personnel, who have the capability to maintain all of our equipment, building, and grounds.

The winter season is also the time for updating maps of mosquito breeding sources, inspecting problem drainage areas, planning for next season's drainage projects, finalizing the records of the previous season, and the annual training of all permanent personnel.

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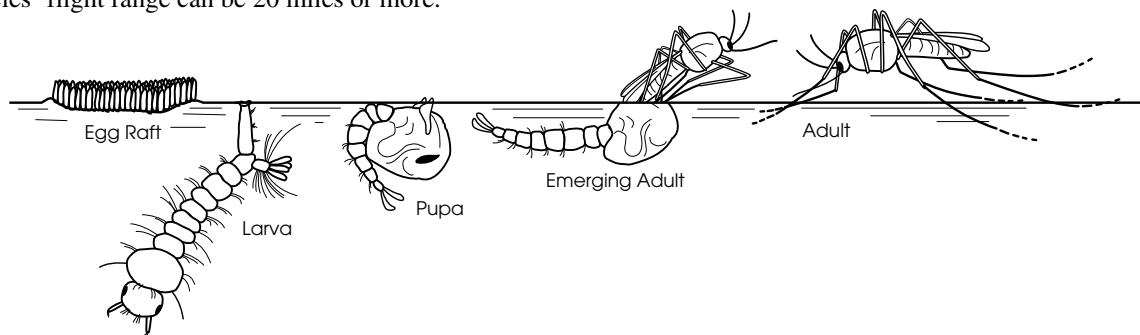
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# Help Fight Mosquitoes

## It's a fact... mosquitoes develop in water.

Over 40 different species of mosquito occur within Illinois. Each species has its own developmental habitat, however all mosquitoes need water in which to pass their early life stages. Some mosquitoes lay their eggs directly on the surface of water. Other mosquitoes lay their eggs in areas that will eventually fill with water. Once eggs come in contact with water, they hatch into larvae within 3–5 days. Mosquito larvae undergo four stages of growth and development called instars. Larvae feed on organic material and microorganisms in the water and return to the surface of the water to breathe. Larval development may be as rapid as 5–7 days in warm weather. After the larval stages are complete, the larvae shed their skins and emerge as comma-shaped pupae. Pupae are very active and dive vigorously if disturbed. Pupae do not feed while they undergo metamorphosis to the adult stage. The adult mosquito emerges from the pupal skin and rests on the water's surface until it dries.

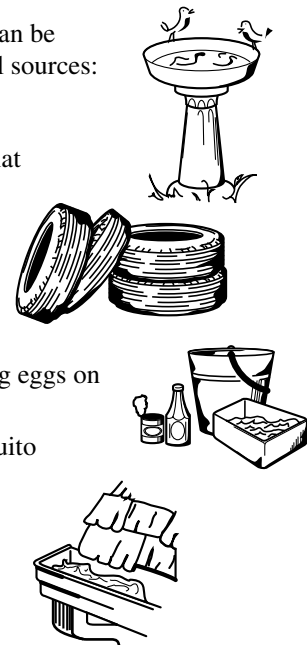
Both male and female adult mosquitoes feed on plant nectar, but only the female bites to get the blood needed for the development of eggs. While some kinds of mosquitoes can live several months, the main nuisance mosquitoes we have in this area usually survive four weeks or less. Not all mosquitoes can carry disease, nor are all mosquitoes vicious biters. Some kinds of mosquito never bite humans. Mosquitoes also vary in the distances they travel from the water they developed in. While some species will not stray more than a block or two from their source, other species' flight range can be 20 miles or more.



## Here's what you can do...

It doesn't take much water for mosquitoes to develop. Many potential breeding sites can be found around the home. You can take the following simple steps to eliminate potential sources:

- Throw away all trash that can hold water (cans, jars, tires, etc).
- Clean rain gutters and downspouts to prevent water from standing in gutters or on flat roofs.
- Change water in bird baths, wading pools, etc. at least once a week. Maintain swimming pools properly.
- Keep ditches and streams on or around your property free of grass clippings, garbage, and other debris to insure proper flow of water.
- Screen rain barrels with 16-mesh screen to prevent adult mosquitoes from depositing eggs on the water's surface.
- Stock ornamental ponds with goldfish or other surface-feeding fish to control mosquito production. (Mosquito Fish are provided free from the District when available).
- Clean out and fill tree holes.
- Stack pails, barrels, tubs and similar containers upside down.



Eliminate any place where water can stand and...

**you eliminate mosquitoes!**