

Gaines Township Mosquito Control Program

2017-2021

Gaines Township has contracted with APM Mosquito Control (APM) to implement an Integrated Mosquito Management Plan for 2017 thru 2021 season. APM's administrative office is located in Armada, Michigan. The company specializes in municipal and community-wide mosquito management programs. APM has over 30 years of experience in integrated mosquito management. This information is being provided to the community as insight to APM's approach for an effective integrated mosquito control program for Gaines Township property owners and residents. This information also explains how we as property owners and residents can assist in this plan.

INTEGRATED MOSQUITO MANAGEMENT

This is a process, consisting of the balanced use of environmentally compatible and economically feasible products, to reduce mosquito populations to a tolerable level. APM develops and implements comprehensive integrated mosquito control programs. The basis of every APM mosquito control program is biological larval control. All potential mosquito larval habitats are surveyed, cataloged and mapped. Routine larval surveys are then scheduled to determine where larvae are developing and what actions need to be taken to control them. Adult mosquito populations are also sampled using a network of light traps. These surveillance activities allow APM to plan and implement larval and adult mosquito control applications in a manner

consistent with Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) protocols.

The primary objective of IMM is to prevent the development of mosquito larvae by using biological methods, thus minimizing the need to "fog" for adult mosquitoes. The use of ULV (ultra-low volume) fogging gives good but only temporary results under acceptable weather conditions and is not generally cost effective as a sole means of control. Biological larval control methods take advantage of natural enemies to reduce mosquito populations. Natural enemies fall into 3 categories: those that prey on mosquitoes; parasitize them; or act against their hormonal system. APM uses biological control in all three areas.

THE MOSQUITO STORY

Mosquitoes (Order Diptera, Family Culicidae) are some of the most adaptable and successful insects on earth and are found in some extraordinary places. Virtually any natural or man-made collection of water can support mosquito production.

Mosquitoes can be distinguished easily from other flies by the fact that they have both a long, piercing proboscis and scales on the veins of their wings. About 60 species are found in Michigan. Only a few of these are important as carriers of disease, but many others are significant nuisances. The two most common mosquito species found in Michigan are *Aedes vexans* and *Culex pipiens*. *Aedes vexans* are known as the floodwater mosquito because it lays its eggs on dry-ground in flood prone areas. *Culex pipiens* are an important disease vector, known to spread St. Louis encephalitis, West Nile Virus and other encephalitis diseases.

THE MOSQUITO LIFE CYCLE

All mosquito species have two things in common: they must have water for their early stages; and they all undergo the same four-stage life cycle — egg, larva, pupa and adult.

Mosquito eggs are laid individually or in clusters and are deposited either on the water surface or in flood prone areas. Most mosquitoes will over winter in the egg stage. If eggs are laid out of water, embryos may lay dormant for several years. Once the egg hatches, the larval stage begins. The larvae of most mosquito species hang suspended at the water surface using an air tube to breathe. The larvae feed on aquatic organisms near the surface. As a defense mechanism, the larvae can dive deeper into the water by swimming in a characteristic "S" motion. Larvae grow quickly and outgrow their exterior covering. Larvae molt four times. Larval stages last between 5 and 14 days depending on temperature and food availability.

No feeding occurs in the pupal stage that lasts from 1 ½ to 4 days, after which the pupal skin splits along the back allowing the newly formed adult to slowly emerge and rest on the water surface. Male mosquitoes will emerge first and linger near the breeding site waiting for the females. Mating occurs quickly after emergence due to high mortality. As much as 30% of the adult population can die per day. The female compensates for this by laying large numbers of eggs, usually about 300. Males live about 7 days and feed on plant nectar. Females live about 6 weeks and must take a blood meal to nourish her eggs. She uses carbon dioxide, exhaled chemicals, and

temperature patterns to locate her victims.

The average female flight range is between 1 and 10 miles, but some species have been shown to travel up to 40 miles. After each blood meal the female will oviposit her eggs, completing the life cycle. Several ovipositions per female are possible.

MOSQUITOES AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Mosquitoes can spread disease only when they bite. During feeding, the female pierces her victim's skin with her proboscis, injects her saliva, which contains an anti-coagulant and then sucks the victim's blood in. If the victim's blood contains disease-causing organisms, the mosquito ingests them too. These organisms are then maintained within the mosquito and eventually may be injected into another victim. In this way a mosquito can spread disease from animal to animal, animal to man, or even person-to-person. In the U. S. there are about six mosquito-borne viruses that are capable of causing acute infections of the central nervous system. Most often this type of infection causes brain and central nervous system inflammation or encephalitis. The most common types found in our area are West Nile Virus (WNV), St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). The only common parasite transmitted by mosquitoes is Dog Heart worm. Transmission of Dog Heart worm occurs only through the bite of an infected mosquito and involves a complicated transmission cycle. Mosquitoes and other insects do not transmit HIV or cause AIDS.

Controlling Mosquitoes

Standing water means mosquitoes. Any standing, stagnant water that remains for 7 to 10 days after a rain can, and usually will, produce mosquitoes.

Empty all water holding containers in your yard on a regular basis, at least once a week. Tires, children's wading pools, rain barrels, buckets, plant pots, birdbaths, and stored boats are common examples of mosquito breeding sites around the yard.

Leaves and other debris should be removed from eaves troughs and down spouts.

Ditches and retention basins must be kept free of vegetation and debris to promote rapid drainage.

Pond edges should be kept clean of cattails and other aquatic vegetation. This is where mosquito larvae develop and mature.

To reduce the number of adult mosquitoes in your yard, keep your yard mowed as short as is practical. Keep all ornamental shrubs and bushes trimmed and pruned to allow airflow and light to penetrate. This is where adult mosquitoes hide during the day

Good housekeeping is encouraged. Screens on windows and doors should be well maintained to prevent mosquitoes from entering homes and structures as mosquitoes seek out cooler, shaded areas for resting.

HOW THE PROGRAM WILL WORK

The placement of dry ice baited and New Jersey Light traps for adult mosquito monitoring and disease testing.

A weekly nighttime ULV application to targeted areas of the township from a truck mounted sprayer. This application is dependent on NJLT trap thresholds exceeding 20 females in a given night or resident input regarding excessive mosquito population and weather conditions meeting the following criteria. Winds must be less than 10 mph. Temperature must be above 55°F and not raining at time of application. Weekly applications are scheduled between **Memorial Day** through **Labor Day** as needed.

Residents are encouraged to call the local APM office in Flint at 810-766-9423 when noticing excessive adult mosquito activity, have standing water or special event requests.

Property owners and residents who would like treatment and are further than 150' from road please fill out and return "Off Road Treatment Consent" form.

Property owners and residents who do not wish to be treated by this method of mosquito control are ask to please fill out and return the "Call and/or Shut Off" Form.

Both forms included with this information. Please return forms to APM.

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