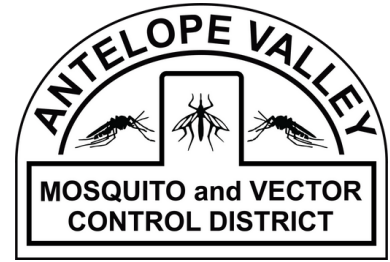


THE VALLEY BUZZ

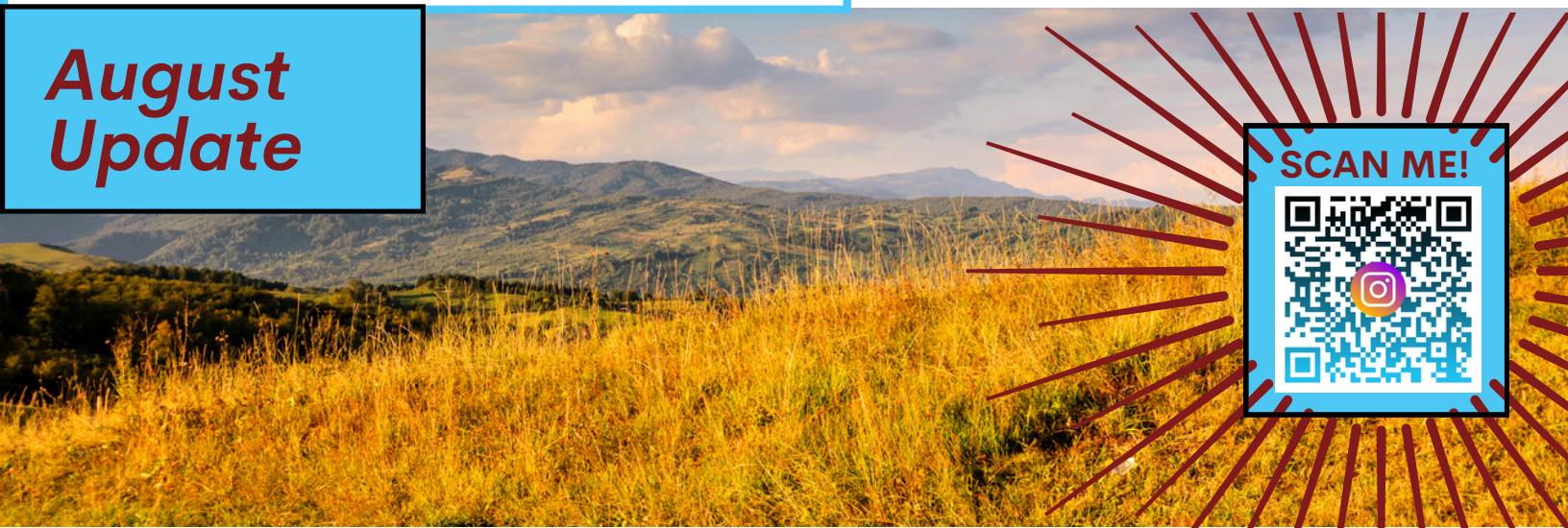


AUGUST 2024



   @avmosquito

August Update



BY BRENNA BATES-GRUBB
COMMUNITY OUTREACH SPECIALIST

Hello Antelope Valley!

Our continued surveillance efforts have shown consistent mosquito activity around town. We are detecting both our native *Culex* mosquitoes (which do carry West Nile virus in the Antelope Valley) and invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes which have the potential to carry dangerous tropical diseases such as Zika virus, dengue virus, chikungunya and yellow fever. In 2023, both Pasadena and Long Beach detected local transmission of dengue fever.

The District has identified 3 new areas in West Palmdale where *Aedes* mosquitoes are now present. *Aedes* mosquitoes have gradually been establishing themselves throughout the Antelope Valley with most detections centering around East Palmdale. These new detections in West Palmdale further illustrate the importance of taking personal mosquito control measures. Hot weather allows mosquitoes to complete their lifecycle very quickly. In fact, mosquitoes can go from egg to adult in as little as 3 days. Mosquito control is a shared responsibility between residents and the District and everyone must do their part to ensure a healthy community.

Personal mosquito control measures include:

- Eliminating sources of standing water around your property weekly
- Disposing of any unused items that can hold standing water
- Keeping windows and doors shut or properly screened to prevent mosquitoes in the home
- Refreshing pet water, bird baths and other permanent fixtures at least weekly
- Keeping pools, fountains, ponds and other water features fully maintained or completely dry throughout the season

Visit our website for more ways to prevent mosquitoes around the home:

<https://www.avmosquito.org/how-you-can-help>

DID YOU KNOW?!



Spurred by the Yellow Fever outbreak of 1905 in New Orleans, mosquito control measures were put into place and Yellow fever was successfully eliminated as an urban epidemic in the United States by 1934. This was achieved by government and residents working together to eliminate sources of stagnant water. The areas that caused the most mosquito breeding were the freshwater cisterns in New Orleans that provided residents with drinking water and the decorative vases in the cemeteries. Proof that mosquito control works. #MosquitoFacts





TECHNICIAN'S TIPS



The role of community members to mitigate mosquitoes in their own yards and on their own property is crucial



With the detection of Invasive Aedes mosquitoes in new locations in West Palmdale, it is important for residents to understand the role they play in mitigating this mosquito.

Aedes mosquitoes differ from our native Culex mosquitoes in many ways. Culex mosquitoes are native to the Antelope Valley area and seek out large, predictable sources of stagnant water to lay their eggs in. Think: Retention basins, ditches, curbs and gutters, unkempt swimming pools etc....The District has access to these large areas of stagnant water and can successfully treat them to control the mosquito population.

Aedes mosquitoes seek out small, unsuspecting areas of standing water to lay their eggs in, often in yards and areas that are not always accessible to the District. Think: small containers, buckets, sand toys, old tires, plant saucers, water dwelling plants and flower vases.

When you compound that with the fact that invasive Aedes mosquitoes bite of choice is humans, the presence of the Aedes mosquito is much more aggressive and impactful to residents than the presence of Culex mosquitoes. Aedes are drawn to human dwellings so they can be near humans for their blood meal and also because people inadvertently create the perfect, small habitats for Aedes mosquitoes to infest. Aedes mosquitoes are difficult to control and are often breeding in areas on private properties and in yards that the District doesn't always have access to. As a result, the role of community members to mitigate mosquitoes in their own yards and on their own property is crucial to the success of a comprehensive mosquito control program.

Follow the personal mosquito control measure listed above. For more information on Aedes mosquitoes, visit: www.avmosquito.org/invasive-aedes-mosquitoes

Contact us!

M-Th 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

Fri 8:00 A.M. TO 2:30 P.M.

661.942.2917

www.avmosquito.org

REPORT A DIRTY POOL!

info@avmosquito.org

avmosquito.org/contact-us.html

661.942.2917

Report a mosquito nuisance/dirty Pool:

- avmosquito.org/submit-a-tip
- [661.942.2917](tel:661.942.2917)

Happiness and Health,
The Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District