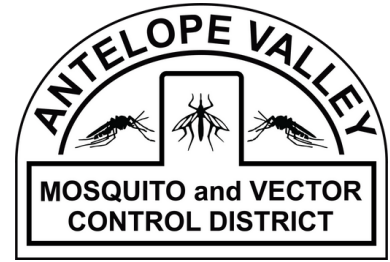


THE VALLEY BUZZ



MAY 2024



   @avmosquito

May Update



BY BRENNA BATES-GRUBB
COMMUNITY OUTREACH SPECIALIST

Hello Antelope Valley!

It's officially mosquito season! With this excessively rainy winter and spring, there are many sources of standing water around town. The District is already receiving service requests and we are out treating green pools and public areas of standing water within our District boundaries. As much of the community knows, our proposition to the community for their vote to increase our funding did not pass. Similar to last season, we continue working with a reduced crew and unfortunately have reduced services. We not only ask for the community's patience as we navigate this set of circumstances, but we also want to remind the community about the importance of personal mosquito control measures. Now, more than ever, 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?!

It is Crane fly season, too! Are you seeing 'GIANT mosquitoes'? If so, don't worry..... they are just Crane flies.



Crane Flies are harmless, albeit clumsy and a little startling sometimes. They don't bite or spread disease like pesky mosquitoes. Also, although they are often referred to as 'mosquito eaters' or 'mosquito hawks', Crane flies do not eat mosquitoes. The more you know!

Mosquito



Crane Fly





TECHNICIAN'S TIPS



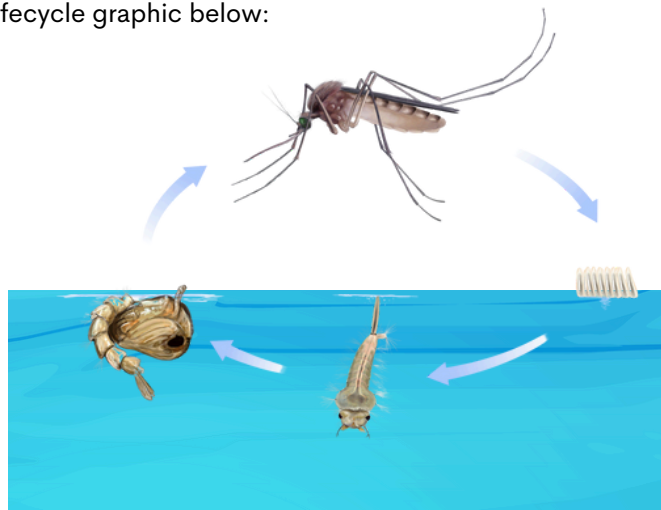
If source reduction happens at least weekly, then the lifecycle is intercepted at one of the life stages before adulthood and an adult mosquito- nuisance is prevented.



Do you ever wonder why the District strongly encourages the elimination of standing water sources as one of our tried and true methods of mosquito control? This is because mosquitoes are aquatic in the first three stages of life. Yep! They live in water for the first 3 stages of their life. Female mosquitoes will find a source of still/standing water and lay her eggs on top. The larvae hatch out into the water and go through a few growth stages (called instars). Eventually, the larvae turn into pupae and after a short time, adult mosquitoes hatch out of the pupal casing and into the air.

It isn't until the adult stage that mosquitoes can bite and transmit disease. If the community gets rid of the sources of water that immature mosquitoes are living in, then we can prevent the adult mosquito issue from ever happening....and fend off a public health threat as a result. This is why, even through decades of mosquito control and scientific advancements, reduction/elimination of standing water sources remains a crucial facet of mosquito control.

It is important to practice source reduction on (at least) a weekly basis. This is because the mosquito lifecycle take approximately five to seven days to go from egg to adult mosquito. If source reduction happens at least weekly, then the lifecycle is intercepted at one of the life stages before adulthood and an adult mosquito- nuisance is prevented. Take a look at the mosquito lifecycle graphic below:



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

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