

## PEST FACT SHEET

**Mosquitoes** *Culex, Aedes & Anopheles species*

### Size

Adult mosquitoes are about 1/4 to 3/8 inch long.

### Characteristics

Mosquitoes have long piercing proboscis and scales on the hind margin and veins in wings

### Color

Color combinations include brown, gray, black, white and silver.



### Habitat

Mosquitoes have adapted to almost every kind of aquatic situation such as permanent ponds and marshes, temporary flood waters or woodland pools, drainage ditches, and water contained in tree holes, leaves of plants, or artificial containers. Larvae move actively in water and come to surface frequently to breathe.

The flight range of mosquitoes varies with the species, temperature, wind direction, time of year, and distance to blood meal sources. Normal flight ranges of mosquitoes are in the range of 1/2 mile to 10 miles, depending on species.

### Threats

Female mosquitoes suck our blood. Male mosquitoes feed on plant nectars.

Mosquitoes are well-known to spread diseases such as West Nile Virus, malaria and dengue fever.

### Management

Weekly emptying, or eliminating completely, containers which hold water on one's own property can be of great help in reducing the number of local mosquitoes. This is especially true for mosquitoes that live in close association with humans and have short flight ranges. Discarded tires, old paint cans, unattended bird baths and children's splash pools, upright wheel barrows, unpatched tree holes, clogged gutters, stagnant drainage ditches and low spots that hold rain water for days at a time are all susceptible and correctible mosquito breeding sites.

Spraying of residual pesticides at stagnating water, surface treatment and fogging treatment during evening time.