

THE DUKE POWER MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM



While enjoying the outdoors, it is advised to wear proper protective clothing and insect repellent.

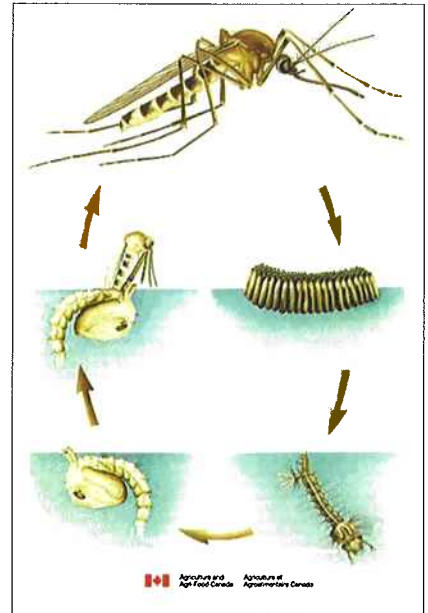
Duke Power began a lake mosquito control program in 1923 that continues today in consultation with the states of North and South Carolina. The program was designed to help control nuisance populations of lake-breeding mosquitoes in the Catawba River Valley. Duke Power mosquito control boat crews now operate from May through October on lakes Norman, James and Wylie in North Carolina, and lakes Wylie, Wateree, Keowee and Greenwood in South Carolina. These crews spray *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) on mosquito-breeding areas within the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project boundary of each lake in order to decrease mosquito populations. This program has proven very effective at controlling species

of lake-breeding mosquitoes. However, the backyard container breeders such as the small black Asian tiger mosquito continue to be a severe nuisance and public health threat to homeowners in all urban areas of North Carolina and South Carolina.



SOME MOSQUITO FACTS

Mosquitoes have been a problem for humans throughout history due to their tendency to spread diseases and suck blood from people and animals. In the Carolinas, there are 60 species of mosquitoes. Many of these are not a problem for humans because they do not attack people. However, some species are very aggressive and seek hosts such as humans, birds, dogs, cats, horses and other animals. Some types of mosquitoes breed in large pools of standing water, such as lakes, ponds and reservoirs. Other types of mosquitoes, known as container breeders, require only a very small amount of water in order to live and reproduce. The typical mosquito lives two



Mosquito Life Cycle

to three weeks as an adult. During this time, the female can take several blood meals and lay hundreds of eggs. This makes eradication of mosquitoes virtually impossible. However, there are a number of steps that can be taken in order to control mosquito populations on lakes, rivers and ponds, as well as in your own backyard.



Duke Power Mosquito Control Boat Crew

TIPS FOR CONTROLLING MOSQUITOES ON AND AROUND YOUR PROPERTY

Many property owners throughout the Carolinas experience problems with mosquitoes. While Duke Power's Mosquito Control Program does help to reduce the population of lake-breeding mosquitoes, the program doesn't have any impact on container-breeding mosquitoes living in residential backyards. Container breeders can lay their eggs in almost any small pool of water. Some major types of breeding habitats that are commonly found on many homeowners' properties include discarded tires, buckets, tin cans, yard toys, clogged rain gutters, flower pots, stumps that hold water and tree holes that can fill with water. Sites around the lawn that hold water are also breeding grounds for mosquitoes.



Discard containers with mosquito larvae present

A simple mud puddle caused by a leaking faucet can provide a breeding area for hundreds of mosquitoes. Eliminating these types of breeding areas around your own home is essential to controlling nuisance mosquito populations.

WHY IS MOSQUITO CONTROL IMPORTANT?

Concerns about mosquito populations that affect the public health of our neighborhoods and communities, as well as a renewed emphasis on mosquito control measures, have resulted from the recent introduction of West Nile Virus (WNV) into the United States. WNV was first seen in 1999 in New York City. It is now spreading throughout the United States, including both North Carolina and South Carolina. To prevent the spread of WNV, we must control the populations of its mosquito carrier. Several mosquito species in the Carolinas act as vectors for the virus, carrying it from birds, to mammals such as horses and humans. There is no known cure for WNV, which in severe human cases causes encephalitis and can be life-threatening. Several human deaths nationwide have occurred. Hundreds of horses have died. The only effective way to stop WNV and other mosquito-transmitted diseases is to control mosquito breeding by removing or managing the water in which they breed in. For more information about the current status of West Nile Virus and other mosquito-borne diseases in your area, you can visit the following government Internet Web site: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile.

HOMEOWNER'S CHECKLIST:

Have you eliminated or routinely empty:

- Landscaped areas that retain pools of water
- Scrap tires
- Uncovered boats
- Clogged rain gutters
- Flower pot saucers and planters that hold water
- Discarded jugs or other open containers
- Tree holes (fill with builder's sand)

HOMEOWNERS SHOULD:

- Empty and change the water in birdbaths, pet-watering dishes and fountains at least once a week; rain barrels should be covered with a tight-fitting lid or mosquito screening
- Stock landscape catchment basins, ornamental ponds and water gardens with fish
- Keep grass around pond and stream banks trimmed to eliminate adult mosquito resting places
- Make sure swimming pools remain treated

Call your county Environmental Health Specialist if you need assistance with standing water such as non-draining public roadside ditches and other water-holding areas in your neighborhood.

For more information about mosquito and other pest management issues, you may wish to visit the following state government Internet Web sites.

North Carolina – www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/phpm/

South Carolina – www.scdhec.net

For more information, contact Duke Power Mosquito Control, (704) 382-0160.

