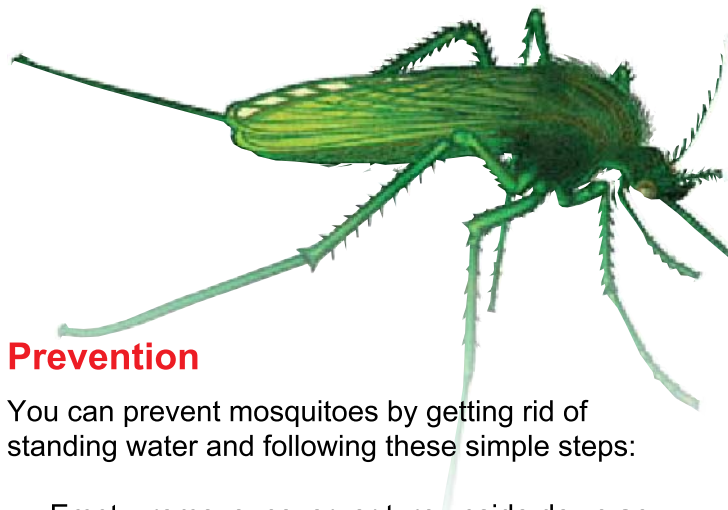


West Nile Virus

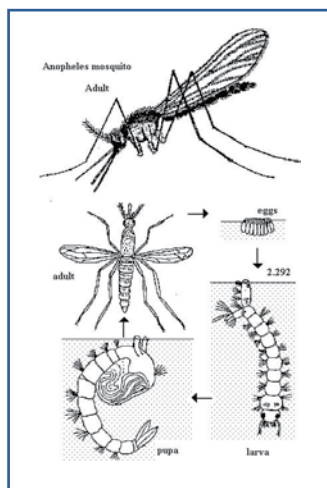
The West Nile virus naturally infects many different species of birds and can be spread to humans and other animals by mosquito bites. Efforts to help protect people from the West Nile infection have included educational campaigns, environmental monitoring of bird population, and mosquito control programs.



Prevention

You can prevent mosquitoes by getting rid of standing water and following these simple steps:

- Empty, remove, cover, or turn upside down any receptacle that would hold water - particularly old bottles, jars, tin cans, buckets, drums, old tires, plastic wading pools, and other containers
- Repair leaky pipes and outside faucets
- Move house cooler drain hoses frequently
- Make sure air conditioner condensation drains away
- Connect open waste-water drains to a sewage system, or construct separate sump or leach lines
- Keep downspouts and gutters cleared of debris and drain flat roofs
- Stock ornamental ponds with mosquito eating fish
- Change water or scrub vases holding flowers or cuttings twice each week - or grow cuttings in sand
- Change water in bird baths twice weekly
- Screen rain barrels and openings to water tanks or cisterns and empty watering pans beneath plants
- Fill holes in trees with sand or mortar, or drain or spray them as required
- Fill or drain low areas on your property that hold water for longer than 4 to 7 days



Protection

Be a partner in the fight against West Nile by following these simple steps to protect your family:

- Wear mosquito repellent with DEET
- Avoid being outdoors during peak mosquito activity periods (around dawn and dusk)
- Cover up with long sleeves and long pants when you are outside
- Report dead birds to parish health officials at your local health unit
- Prevent mosquitoes from entering your home by keeping window screens in good repair
- Educate yourself by visiting the West Nile-related web page at <http://oph.dhh.state.la.us/infectiousdisease/westnile>

Take back control of your lawn

Stamp out mosquitoes!

With the outbreak of the West Nile virus, more people than ever are concerned about mosquitoes. In addition to West Nile, mosquitoes carry malaria and other diseases. Fortunately, with a little bit of effort, you can prevent them from breeding in your yard.

Most mosquitoes lay their eggs around water, so any damp or wet place in your yard is a potential breeding ground.

Some of the more common areas to look out for are:

