

MOSQUITO CONTROL

The 2010 mosquito season was quiet and rather uneventful, but I'm not complaining. It was nice to have a season where Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) wasn't ruining the summer. Dry conditions helped to keep the mosquito population down. New Hampshire didn't escape the year without some arboviral activity. There was one EEE horse in Freedom, one West Nile Virus (WNV) mosquito sample in Manchester and a human case of WNV in Mason, NH. Over the border, Massachusetts was experiencing record levels of disease activity prompting the State to conduct aerial spraying in some counties.

Dragon has identified 97 larval mosquito habitats in the Town of Stratham. Crews checked larval habitats 425 times throughout the season. There were 232 sites treated to eliminate mosquito larvae. In addition, 767 catch basin treatments were made to combat disease carrying mosquitoes. Adult mosquitoes were monitored at four locations throughout Town. The mosquitoes were collected in light traps, identified to species, and sent to the State Lab to be tested for diseases. None of the mosquitoes collected in Town tested positive for disease. Spraying to control adult mosquitoes was conducted last season along roadways in Stratham, in addition to Stratham Hill Park, Stevens Park and the schools.

The proposed 2011 Mosquito Control plan for Stratham includes trapping mosquitoes for disease testing, sampling wetlands for larval mosquito activity, larviciding where mosquito larvae are found, efficacy monitoring, truck spraying along roadways and emergency spraying when a public health threat exists. The control program begins in April when mosquito larvae are located in stagnant water such as swamps, salt marshes, ditches, and woodland pools. Trapping adult mosquitoes begins in July. The mosquito control program ends in late September or early October when temperatures drop and daylight diminishes.

Dragon will be introducing an organic larvicide to our arsenal of products for the municipal control program. Natular™ will be the first organic larvicide used to control mosquitoes for municipalities in NH. Natular™ is listed by the Organic Material Review Institute (OMRI) for use in and around organic agriculture.

Homeowners can reduce the number of mosquitoes in their yard by emptying outdoor containers that hold standing water such as buckets, trash barrels, and boats. Tires collect enough water for mosquitoes to survive. It is also a good idea to change the water in bird baths every 2 or 3 days.

If you're new in Town and do not want your property treated for mosquitoes, then a written request is needed. Please send a letter to Dragon Mosquito Control, P.O. Box 46, Stratham, NH 03885. Be sure to include your name, physical address, phone number, and a description of your property with boundaries. Otherwise, your property may be treated. Anyone who sent a written request in 2010 may call the office to reaffirm your request. Our phone number is 964-8400. You may call our office for assistance regarding mosquitoes, the insecticides we use, spray dates, or questions about EEE or WNV.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah MacGregor, President
Dragon Mosquito Control, Inc.