

DRAGON MOSQUITO CONTROL INC.

JUNE 2019 UPDATE

Summer has finally arrived bringing long-awaited warm sunny days. Most of June's weather was similar to what we experienced in May with twice as much rainfall. There were too many days with below normal temperatures and more than our share of wet weather. Those cooler temperatures created a slow start to the mosquito season. Thanks to all the rain, there's standing water everywhere and mosquito numbers have quickly increased.

Rain added water to a variety of mosquito habitats including containers, catch basins and woodland depressions. Treatment of catch basins started in June and will be ongoing throughout the season. Treating catch basins can stop mosquito larvae from becoming flying adults that may spread disease to humans.

Trapping of adult mosquitoes is underway. Traps are set weekly in numerous locations throughout your community. Trap catches are collected, and sorted, specimens are identified and select species are sent to the State Lab in Concord where they are tested for disease. As well as submitting mosquitoes for disease testing, data collected from trapping is an essential part of Dragon's integrated mosquito management program. Numbers and species of mosquitoes collected play a key role in treatment decisions.

In addition to treating catch basins and trapping mosquitoes, crews continue to check salt marshes and a variety of freshwater sites for mosquito larvae. Some mosquito species including salt marsh mosquitoes have several generations each summer, so their populations may increase as the summer goes along. More rain means we'll have more mosquitoes.

Greenhead fly season begins in July and lasts into August. Traps are placed on salt marshes between the trenches where greenheads emerge and residential areas. Traps collect more flies when placed in flyways (open areas between buildings, taller bushes and trees). Crews place traps in strategic locations with a plan to serve the whole community. Traps are a chemical free option that attract, control and eliminate flies. Luring greenheads away from houses is the goal.

Mosquitoes go through four life stages. Three of these require water. Any container that collects water provides a habitat for mosquitoes. Remember to check your property for anything that hold water and dump it out at least weekly. This is something everyone can do. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides additional information for homeowners at <https://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/controlling-mosquitoes-at-home.html>.

Respectfully Submitted,

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