

Dragon Mosquito Control, Inc.

Monthly Update

June 2021

One year ago, we were experiencing a moderate drought. Today, we're currently in better shape. Lawns are green, gardens are growing and backyard containers are full of water, which is perfect for mosquitoes. Continue to dump out standing water in your yard to reduce mosquito numbers and the risk of mosquito-borne illnesses.

In June, Dragon crews have:

- Monitored catch basins for larval mosquito activity
- Repaired broken greenhead fly traps
- Retired 10 old, rotten greenhead traps
- Set out 76 greenhead fly traps on the salt marshes
- Surveyed salt marshes after tidal flooding and heavy rains
- Treated salt marshes with Bti to kill mosquito larvae
- Started trapping adult mosquitoes for disease testing
- Sprayed for movie night

During a heat wave, many jobs become more difficult. Municipal mosquito control is one of them. Dragon crews survived the hottest heat wave on record while treating mosquito larvae on the salt marshes. It's punishing to carry a 50 pound backpack while wearing protective gear when it's 95+ degrees. Heat speeds mosquito development while it slows us down making our work even more challenging.

Nighttime road spraying has been cut from the Stratham budget. It will be reserved for emergency use. The decision to spray is made in consultation with town officials and is based upon mosquito surveillance data and disease test results.

Trapping adult mosquitoes for disease testing 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 and guides our treatment decisions.

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services announced that mosquitoes collected in Bow, Dumbarton and Canterbury have tested positive for Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV). There have been over a dozen human cases of JCV in NH since 2013. This is the first time mosquitoes are being tested for JCV. The pilot program intends to estimate the prevalence of Jamestown Canyon Virus in mosquitoes throughout Central New Hampshire. Testing mosquitoes for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV) begins in July. The State will issue a press release when EEE and WNV are first detected in mosquitoes. Arboviral disease test results and the arboviral risk map can be found at <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/arboviral/results.htm>.