

DRAGON MOSQUITO CONTROL INC.

May 2020 UPDATE

Gardens are planted, the beaches are finally open and summer is just ahead. Mosquitoes and ticks take advantage of the warm weather. Personal protection is the best way to avoid mosquito and tick borne disease. It's been a spring full of hoarding and shortages, so now's a good time to make sure you have the insect repellent you'll need to stay safe and enjoy your time outside this summer.

Dragon crews spent the spring working in a variety of woodland habitats including cedar swamps and red maple swamps where we can reduce the number of mosquitoes that carry Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). Decreasing these populations helps reduce the chance of a EEE outbreak. Public Health professionals are concerned about the prospects of increased EEE activity this season due to the major outbreak in New England last year. Twenty-three of the 38 US human cases of EEE were in the Northeast. This part of the country has consistently seen equine and/or human cases every year since 2004. The risk factors for EEE include significant disease activity in the previous mosquito season, mild winters, above average rainfall and a high water table. While rainfall in April was above average, May was much drier which should work in our favor. We'll keep monitoring mosquitoes and reducing their numbers and keep track of other contributing factors as the summer progresses.

Dragon starts trapping adult mosquitoes in June. Traps are set in various locations throughout your community each week from June to mid-October. Dragon's Entomologist identifies every mosquito to species and sends select species for disease testing. The NH State Lab in Concord tests mosquitoes for Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus beginning in July. In New Hampshire, we don't usually see disease positive mosquitoes until late July or August.

Catch basins treatments which target mosquitoes that spread West Nile Virus also begin in June. This is the second season that we'll be treating catch basins with Natular, a product listed for use in and around organic food production. Spinosad, the active ingredient in Natular, does not persist in the environment and is not toxic to wildlife.

Even when it's dry, mosquito activity can still be found in containers. Checking and dumping out standing water should be done weekly throughout the summer. Remember to check anywhere water collects such as boats, canoes, pool covers, dog bowls, birdbaths, tires and buckets. Don't forget to look at less obvious places like children's toys, tarps, clogged rain gutters and litter. Every little bit helps.

Respectfully Submitted,
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