

Dragon Mosquito Control, Inc.

Monthly Update

May 2021

Spring can be a lovely time of year when flowers are blooming, hummingbirds and orioles have arrived and the vegetable garden is planted. May is a transition month when we go from having no mosquitoes to one day you hear that familiar whine in your ear. Many spring mosquito species begin hatching from shallow stagnant water and fly off in search of a blood meal. Most are active at dusk and dawn but a few species will fly during the day. Anyone living or visiting the seacoast may have experienced the aggressive daytime pursuit of the summer salt marsh mosquito. This mosquito loves to rest on lush green lawns and will bite you in full sun which surprises newcomers to the area. That's why we focus our control efforts on the salt marshes during mosquito season.

Here's the list of work completed in May:

- Finished up the last of the spring larviciding in freshwater swamps
- Assessed larvicide treatments for efficacy
- Began monitoring catch basins for mosquito larvae
- Larvicided salt marshes after the full moon tide
- Continued training new hires
- Many crew members received their second Covid shot

Ticks have rebounded after last season's plunge. More people are complaining about ticks than anything else in the yard. Ticks require us to be vigilant while we're outside and once we get back indoors a thorough tick check is advised. Wearing light colored clothing, tucking your shirt into your pants and pants into your socks makes it easier to spot these despicable creatures. It's a good idea to wear repellent too.

When it's dry, mosquito eggs lie dormant until rain washes the eggs into the water to hatch and begin their aquatic lifecycle. Eggs can remain dormant for years. Some species do well during a drought having adapted to man-made containers as their habitat. We humans provide the water that mosquitoes need for their lifecycle. To reduce the mosquitoes on your property, remove the water. Dump out water or move under cover all buckets, kiddie pools, tarps, wheelbarrows, canoes, boats, flower pots, trash cans, pool covers and tires.

It's a violation of State Pesticide Regulations for anyone to put pesticide in surface water without a current State Special Permit issued by the NH Department of Agriculture. Most companies holding such permits are working for municipalities. All other companies hired to fog your yard for mosquitoes cannot and should not treat wetlands on your property.

Now that we've had a few days of rain, the mosquito lifecycle will begin again. It's a good time to check your yard for containers holding water.