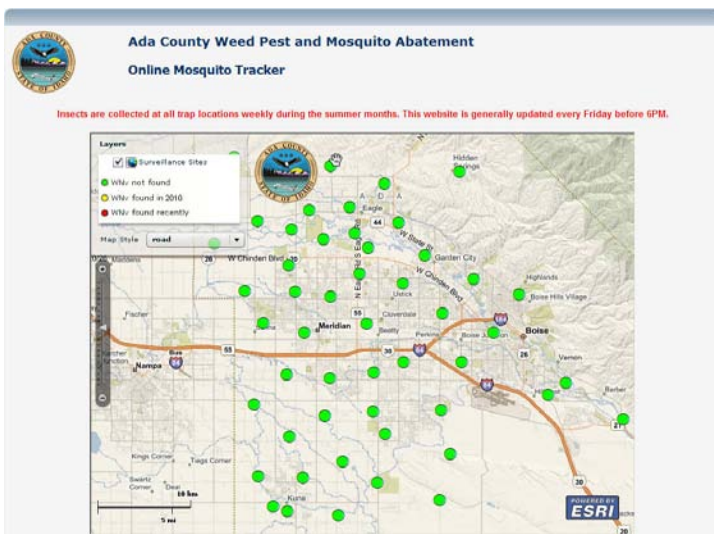




Vol. 1 - Iss. 4 : July/August 2010

A bimonthly publication from the Ada County Weed, Pest and Mosquito Abatement Department

Is West Nile In Your Neighborhood?



Ada County has 51 predetermined trapping locations throughout Ada County (the green dots you see in the map to the left). During the summer, adult mosquitoes are trapped and collected weekly. Ada County Mosquito Abatement workers count and identify the trapped mosquitoes to determine the population of the *Culex* mosquito species - the primary vector for West Nile in Ada County. The *Culex* mosquitoes are then tested for the presence of West Nile virus antibodies. Results from this surveillance are posted to the Ada County Mosquito Tracker. When West Nile has been detected in mosquito populations, that trapping location will be colored either red or yellow.

The Online Mosquito Tracker Web site was created to help Ada County residents protect themselves from the West Nile virus. But that's not all residents can or should do; follow every precaution to Fight the Bite and protect yourself and your family from the West Nile virus.

- Wear light-colored, long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outside
- Ward off mosquitoes with an insect repellent containing DEET or with Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (the only plant-based insect repellent recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Spray your clothing, too, since mosquitoes can bite through thin fabrics
- DRAIN all standing water from around your property - a female mosquito needs only two tablespoons of water to lay eggs
- Clean or drain ornamental ponds and/or livestock watering troughs every week or use an inexpensive mosquito dunk to control for mosquitoes
- Regularly drain, clean, or replace water in bird baths
- Report any abandoned swimming pools in your neighborhood - water can collect there and become a prime mosquito breeding location
- Avoid being active from dusk to dawn when mosquitoes are most active

Mosquito Control



Ada County's Mosquito Abatement has developed a phased integrated pest management plan that focuses on stopping mosquitoes where they start - as larvae and pupae in pools of standing water.

Ada County Mosquito Abatement District monitors more than 2,700 bodies of water that are known mosquito breeding locations. Information about these lakes, ponds or pools is digitally submitted to crews using global positioning technology to ensure the crews have accurate, efficient information about the location of these still-water sites. These sites are treated to prevent any future larvae production.

Ada County Mosquito Abatement District uses two forms of larvicide control, which are as environmentally friendly as possible and do not pollute the air, soil or water of a treatment site. The first larviciding treatment is a biological pesticide called BTI (Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis). It's a bacteria that targets mosquito larvae in infested bodies of water. The bacteria produce protein crystals that stunt the growth of the mosquito larvae to prevent



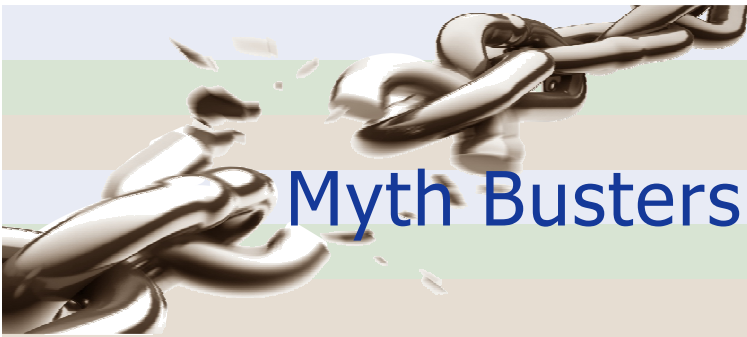
them from maturing into flying (and potentially disease carrying) adults. BTI has a selective action and only mosquitoes, black flies and some midges are affected by the control agent. Aquatic animals and other insects are unaffected by BTI applications.



The second larviciding treatment is a natural wetting that changes the surface tension of the water so that young mosquitoes cannot survive to maturity.

While larviciding is the district's first priority, there will be times when the larvae escape and mature into flying adults. To control these adult mosquito populations, Ada County has "foggers" that apply an ultra low-volume application. The district will treat areas as determined necessary from surveillance activity or other thresholds such as mosquito complaints from area residents. For more information about all the pesticides Ada County uses to control mosquitoes, visit the US Environmental Protection Agency by [clicking here](#).





Myth Busters

Mosquito Control Method Myths

There are many myths circulating about common household products that control mosquitoes which include:

- Avon’s Skin So Soft
- Dryer Sheets
- Eating a lot of garlic
- Citronella candles
- Listerine spray
- Planting marigolds around the yard
- Putting water in a white bowl and adding a couple drops of dish soap
- Vick’s Vaporub
- Electronic devices that emit high-frequency sounds

These methods are not effective in controlling mosquito populations around your home. If you are outside and want a mosquito-free time, use an insect repellent with DEET or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. You can also use an oscillating fan; mosquitoes aren’t strong fliers and the wind from a fan can create enough of an air current to keep the bugs at bay.



This is a surveillance trap Ada County uses to trap mosquitoes for identification and testing. Since mosquitoes are attracted to humans by exhaled carbon dioxide, Ada County uses dry ice to entice the insects to the trap. There’s a fan located just above the white bag that sucks the mosquitoes into the trap and creates enough of a wind current to keep them secured in the bag.



Be West Nile Wise!

When you go camping, rafting, hiking or biking, chances are that you remember to spray mosquito repellent and carry it with you. But what about when you’re walking your dog through the neighborhood or playing with your children at the park? Do you remember to spray then?

Fight the Bite this summer and use a repellent with DEET or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus each and every time you go outside. Protect against West Nile!

To Spray or Not To Spray

Residents who notice high numbers of mosquitoes in their neighborhood can call Ada County Mosquito Abatement to request their property be fogged. For more information about our fogging services, see the previous page.

If you want to be on the district’s “No Spray” list, click here to download the forms. Idaho state code and the Ada County Mosquito Abatement district both require a mitigation plan for mosquitoes if you opt out of the spraying service.

For more information on the county’s mosquito spraying service, call our offices at 577-4646



WNV FAQs and More

West Nile virus is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Report dead birds to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Southwest Region office at 465-8465 so experts can test whether the bird was carrying West Nile. Below are some frequently asked questions about West Nile from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

What Are WNV Symptoms?

- Serious Symptoms appear in a few people. About one in 150 people infected with West Nile develop severe illness, with symptoms such as high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis. These symptoms may last several weeks, and neurological effects may be permanent.
- Up to 20 percent of infections include symptoms like fever, headache, and body aches, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash on the chest, stomach and back. Symptoms can last anywhere from a few days to a few weeks.
- Approximately 80 percent of people (about 4 out of 5) who are infected with West Nile will not show any symptoms at all.

How Soon Do Infected People Get Sick?

People typically develop symptoms between 3 and 14 days after they are bitten by the infected mosquito.

How Can I Treat West Nile Infection?

There is no specific treatment for West Nile. In cases with milder symptoms, people experience symptoms

such as fever and aches that pass on their own, although even healthy people have become sick for several weeks. In more severe cases, people usually need to be hospitalized to receive supportive treatment like intravenous fluids, help with breathing and nursing care.

What Can I Do if I Think I Have WNV?

Milder West Nile illness improves on its own, and people do not necessarily need to seek medical attention though they may choose to do so. If you develop symptoms of West Nile such as unusually severe headaches or confusion, seek medical attention immediately. Severe illness usually requires hospitalization. Pregnant women and nursing mothers are encouraged to talk to their doctor if they develop symptoms that could be West Nile

What Are Other West Nile Risk Factors?

People over the age of 50 are more likely to develop serious symptoms of West Nile if they do get sick, and so they should take special care to avoid mosquito bites. The more you're outdoors, the more time you could be bitten by an infected mosquito. Pay attention to avoiding mosquito bites if you spend a lot of time outside, either working or playing.

Risk through medical procedures is very low. All donated blood is checked for West Nile, and the risk that West Nile may present to a fetus or an infant infected through breast milk is still being evaluated. Talk with your care provider if you have concerns.

