

FISH PREVENT MOSQUITOES

Gambusia affinis, called mosquito fish, are indispensable to our mosquito control program. They eat mosquito larvae as fast as they hatch from eggs. Mosquito fish are furnished free of charge for stocking ornamental ponds, unused or out-of-order swimming pools, and animal watering troughs. They require no feeding and care is limited to protecting them from garden sprays, chlorine, and other chemicals used to clean the pond. The district also stocks thousands of these fish each year in artificial lakes, reservoirs, wastewater disposal lagoons, natural creeks, and drainage channels to eliminate the need for frequent spraying with mosquito control products.

OBJECTIVES OF OUR CONTROL PROGRAM

The objectives of the District are to abate existing mosquito breeding sources and prevent new ones in order to permit full use and enjoyment of our backyards and our many recreational facilities, to permit mosquito-free agricultural and industrial working conditions, and to protect public health and comfort.

HOW THE DISTRICT CONTROLS MOSQUITO SOURCES

Controlling mosquitoes does not only happen when adult mosquitoes are present. Besides spraying and using mosquito fish, the District makes sure that water in the sources is flowing as fast as possible since mosquitoes need the water to be very calm in order to emerge from their pupal cases and lay their eggs. It is also necessary to maintain trails leading to sources. This type of control often occurs during the winter making mosquito control a year-round job.

If you have any questions or need some assistance with a source please contact:

Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District

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shastamosquito.org
contact@shastamosquito.org



ARE YOU RAISING MOSQUITOES IN YOUR BACKYARD?



THIS PAMPHLET WILL TELL YOU WHERE TO LOOK, WHAT TO DO, AND HOW SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT CAN HELP YOU

WHERE TO LOOK AND WHAT TO DO

ORNAMENTAL PONDS

It is important to keep your pond clean and stocked with mosquito-eating fish. By removing leaves and keeping the aquatic plants thinned, the fish are able to eat the mosquito larvae that would normally hide in the cover. Chlorine will kill your fish so it is important to move your fish to another container if you use bleach or other cleaning products. If you no longer want the pond, break holes in the bottom and fill with sand or dirt. Not only will this remove any water for mosquitoes to breed in, but you could also have an attractive planter.

PLASTIC WADING POOLS

Change the water every week. Store indoors or upside down when not in use.

ANIMAL WATER TROUGHS

Stock large troughs with mosquito-eating fish and clean small troughs every week. Don't forget that an unused dog bowl could be a perfect spot for mosquitoes to breed.

CONTAINERS OF ALL SORTS

Remove and dispose of all unused containers that will collect rainwater or irrigation from your sprinklers. Home gardeners rooting plant cuttings in containers should change the water every week. Other

mosquito sources include: tin cans, jars, barrels, old tires, buckets, leaks under your house, plugged rain gutters, and tubs. This list is not exclusive and any type of container that has standing water in it could potentially breed mosquitoes.

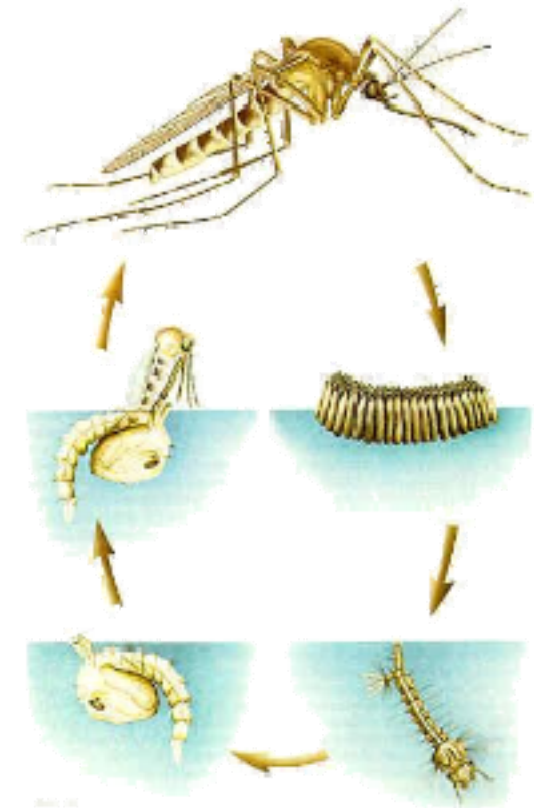
FACTS ABOUT MOSQUITOES

- All mosquitoes must have standing water in which to complete their life cycle.
- During warm weather the mosquito may only need 7 days to become an adult.
- Mosquitoes never develop in grass or shrubbery although the flying adults frequently rest there during daylight hours.
- Both sexes feed on plant juices, but only the female feeds on blood.

THE MOSQUITO LIFE CYCLE

Eggs: The common mosquito lays a raft of 100-400 eggs on the water. After a day or so the eggs hatch into larvae.

Larva: The larva or "wiggler" comes to the surface to breathe through a tube called a siphon. It sheds its skin four times during the next several days growing rapidly between each molt. On the fourth molt it becomes a pupa.



Pupa: The pupa cannot eat. It no longer has its siphon so it breathes through two tubes on its back called trumpets. The mosquito grows inside the pupa and in a few days it splits the pupal skin and emerges as an adult.

Adult: The newly emerged adult rests on the surface of the water until it is strong enough to fly away for something to eat.