

Recognize This Fellow?



"One fact to remember about all mosquitoes: water + warm temperatures = more mosquitoes. It's so very important that all residents do their best to eliminate any standing water around their residence. Even a bottle cap of water can produce about 100 mosquitoes in only 5-7 days!"

Robin Cook, Collier Mosquito Control District Communications Director.

I don't know about you but I have been noticing a lot of mosquitoes lately. The problem is I seem to never notice them until after they've bitten me!

Robin Cook, Collier Mosquito Control District Communications Director, was kind enough to answer some questions about our pesky little friend... the mosquito.

"Our surveillance program is continuously bringing in data from throughout the District, and we are actually just about normal for this time of year regarding mosquito populations. Of the 42 different species of mosquitoes in Collier County, there is one that is dominant from about mid-April through July 1: The Salt Marsh mosquito. As the name implies, its habitat is the saltwater mangroves and marshes.

This year, we first sighted the Salt Marsh mosquitoes in the northern part of the county (i.e., Barefoot Beach) and we're this week beginning to see them further south (i.e., Isles of Capri). We are also seeing an unusually widespread population of no-see-ums throughout the District – not just along the coast. If residents in other parts of the District are encountering small areas of mosquitoes, there may be a number of reasons and we encourage ALL residents to submit a report about mosquitoes using the form on our website: https://www.cmcd.org/serv_req"

If you really want to dive into this, you can schedule a visit from a Collier Mosquito Control District technician at no charge. The technician will point out all the things

you should not have in your yard because they are mosquito breeding grounds... for instance bird baths, flowerpots full of water, anything holding water. But don't go pull out your water-holding bromeliads just yet. There is a product you can use to kill the mosquito larvae.

Below is the link to the Collier Mosquito Control District and some details on how to navigate the website.

HAPPY SWATTING!



[Collier Mosquito Control District](#)

Some Mosquito control tips from Consumer Reports:

It only takes a few minutes outdoors, particularly at dusk, to develop a deep-rooted disdain for mosquitoes. And as if buzzing incessantly near your ear and feasting on your exposed arms and legs aren't enough, mosquitoes can transmit a number of infectious diseases, a fact that elevates the insects from a nuisance to an outright health risk.

The West Nile virus, by far the most common mosquito-borne illness in the U.S., afflicts thousands of people across the country each year. It has been responsible for more than 2,000 deaths since 1999.

Laura Goodman, a veterinarian and senior research associate in Cornell University's department of population medicine and diagnostic sciences, specializes in infectious diseases spread by ticks, which also transmit infectious diseases. But they're not her main concern on a personal level.

"While everyone else is worrying about ticks," she says, "I'm worried about mosquitoes."

Sure, you can buy a plethora of devices designed to repel, capture, and kill the bugs. But as satisfying as bug zappers and electrified insect swatters may seem, few, if any, of these products are effective when it comes to controlling the mosquito population in your yard.

To learn which strategies you can truly rely on, we spoke with Goodman's colleague, Jody Gangloff-Kaufmann, an entomologist and coordinator of New York State's Integrated Pest Management Program at Cornell. Here are her five no-nonsense tips for keeping mosquitoes out of your yard and away from your family.

1. Use Your Screens

Maximize fresh air indoors, but introduce a bugproof barrier. Gangloff-Kaufmann advises using fine mesh screens in all open windows and doors. This allows cross-breezes to enter your house, but the screens' openings are too small for mosquitoes to permeate.

MORE ON PEST CONTROL

[Tickproof Your Yard Without Spraying](#)

[The Best Insect Repellents For You and Your Family](#)

[How to Get Rid of Bed Bugs at Home](#)

[How to Get Rid of Ants](#)

Consider screening in your porch as well. "Screens are simply the best mosquito-control device you can find," she says. "They were the original form of pest control, and for good reason."

If you already have screens, check the seals around the edges and use a patching kit to repair any tears.

2. Get Rid of Standing Water

“Mosquitoes reproduce in water,” Gangloff-Kaufmann says, “and they can do it in even the small amount of water that would fit in a bottle cap.”

That means it’s imperative to empty outdoor water toys and remove wheelbarrows and other outdoor gear that can catch water after a rainfall. Keep your gutters and drain lines clear of debris—clogged leaves and branches can cause water to pool.

In a mere four days, eggs laid in water mature into nymphs. So if it rains on a Monday, don’t wait until the weekend to get rid of standing water. By then it’ll be too late.

3. Keep Your Yard Under Control

Use a lawn mower, a string trimmer, or even a chain saw to cut back high grass, brush, and tree limbs.

“Mosquitoes favor cooler spots in the shade,” Gangloff-Kaufmann says.

By minimizing any tall grass or limbs that cast shadows on your yard, you make the habitat immediately surrounding your home much less appealing to mosquitoes.

Letting more sun in also helps dry up any wet spots. If your lawn has uneven terrain or divots, fill them with topsoil and plant grass seed. Left alone, any dips will collect water during each rainfall and provide a potential breeding ground.

4. Use Fans Even Outdoors

CR has tested three methods for controlling mosquito activity in a large area: citronella candles, an oscillating pedestal fan, and a battery-powered area diffuser that emitted geraniol, a natural repellent derived from plants. We found that the fan was far more effective than citronella candles or the geraniol diffuser.

In fact, our tests showed that the fan reduced mosquito landings by 45 to 65 percent for folks sitting nearby.

“There’s a reason you see porch fans in mosquito-rich areas like the tropics,” Gangloff-Kaufmann says.

She notes that while a fan makes it more difficult for mosquitoes to fly against the steady breeze, it also helps disperse carbon dioxide emitted by humans. That

secondary benefit's a good one because mosquitoes detect the compound in the air we exhale, which guides them when they're looking to feed.

5. Keep Covered and Use Repellent

As much as the above steps will help cut down on mosquitoes in your own yard, controlling the greater population requires targeted community efforts. "Even if you follow the rules, your neighbor's yard might be a breeding ground," Gangloff-Kaufmann says.

To guard against bites, wear long sleeves, use an effective insect repellent, such as Total Home Woodland Scent Insect Repellent from CVS, \$7, and avoid going outside at prime feeding times—dawn and dusk for the Northern house mosquito, the most common variety in most of the U.S. These safeguards can minimize your exposure, cutting your risk of mosquito-transmitted illness so that you can enjoy the outdoors with more peace of mind.