



For Immediate Release:

June 7, 2013

Mosquito Control Management Program in Newnan

The Public Works Department will begin a mosquito management program in June and continue through September, fogging twice weekly, from 7pm to 9m, weather conditions permitting. We use a truck mounted ULV (ultra low volume) aerosol fogger for spraying a synergized Permethrin formulation, Omega Mist, to help control adult mosquito populations within the City. Omega Mist is approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency for municipal use. The equipment is calibrated to a vehicle speed of 10 M.P.H., but the rate of application automatically adjusts for speeds faster or slower. At that speed, the operator can generally fog 20 miles of right-of-way per evening. At this time, the Public Works Department does not have a program for larval monitoring or surveillance, nor does the Department use any larval control products.

Because of ideal weather conditions, the mosquito population this spring and summer are predicted to be a bumper crop.

Mosquitoes are an all-too familiar summer nuisance, but much worse, they can carry West Nile virus or Eastern Equine Encephalitis for humans and heartworms for pets. West Nile virus can result in serious illness and sometimes death. The virus can infect humans, birds, mosquitoes, horses and other mammals and is transmitted through the bite of a mosquito that has bitten an infected bird.

People over the age of 50 and anyone living in areas where the virus has been detected are most at risk. Standing water in your yard means you could be raising dangerous mosquitoes. Some mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water where they hatch in just a day or two. Other mosquitoes lay their eggs in old tires, tin cans or other potential water-holding containers where the eggs remain un-hatched for weeks, months or even years until they are covered by water.

Mosquitoes do have natural predators that will feed on them through all stages of their development. However these predators alone are neither prevalent enough nor physically able

to control the vast population of mosquitoes in addition to the other insects that comprise their diet.

Residents and property owners can help abate existing mosquito breeding sources by clearing property of any potential breeding sites and preventing them from recurring. Here are some suggestions for what you can do help eliminate potential breeding grounds and increase your enjoyment of the outdoors:

- Get rid of old tires, tin cans, buckets, bottles or any water-holding containers
- Fill in or drain low places in your yard
- Keep gutters, drains, ditches and culverts clean of weeds and trash to help drainage
- Cover trash containers to keep water out
- Repair leaky outside pipes and faucets
- Empty plastic wading pools regularly and store them indoors when not in use
- Fill in tree rot holes and hollow stumps
- Change the water in bird baths and tray for plant pots at least once a week
- Keep your grass cut short and shrubbery trimmed

Together we can eliminate potential breeding grounds and increase our enjoyment of the outdoors.

For more information please contact Michael Klahr, Public Works Director at mklahr@cityofnewnan.org

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