



Reducing Asian Tiger Mosquito Concerns

The Asian Tiger Mosquito

Scientific Name: *Aedes albopictus*

Appearance: Small (1/4" in size), black mosquito with striking white markings on the body and legs.

Personality: Very aggressive, opportunist, day-time biter.

Her Favorite Meal: In urban areas will primarily blood-feed on humans, dogs, cats, other mammals and birds.

Preferred Breeding Sites: She lays her eggs in artificial containers before they collect water or above the water level. These can be as big as an abandoned swimming pool or as small as a bottle cap. Additional places she may lay her eggs are tires, flowerpots, roadside trash (cups, bottles, cans and plastic bags) and corrugated drain pipes.

Daytime Hangouts: Anywhere cool and shady. Ivy, azaleas, bushes, other shrubs and brush piles are her favorite resting places.

Health Risk: The Asian tiger mosquito is known to be an effective vector for a variety of global diseases. West Nile risk is low because she does not have a preference for birds.

Protect Yourself from Bites

- Wear light-colored and loose fitting long pants and long sleeve shirt to avoid mosquito bites.
- Apply an insect repellent to exposed skin when outdoors.
- If you are sitting outside on a deck or patio, take an electric fan outside to blow the air around. Asian Tigers are weak flyers and stay away.
- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends using repellent products containing DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus. (Make sure you choose and use the repellent that works best for you.) Do not allow young children to apply insect repellent to themselves. Always have an adult help them. **REMEMBER** to always read and follow the label instructions when using insect repellents.

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Eliminate Mosquito Breeding Sites Around Your Home and in Your Community

- Female Asian tiger mosquitoes lay their eggs in artificial containers. These can be as big as an abandoned swimming pool or as small as a bottle cap.
- Containers that cannot be emptied (such as abandoned pools or gutters) should be treated with an insecticide that specifically targets mosquito larvae. Check with your local garden center or hardware store for products that contain Bti (*Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *israelensis*).
- Be sure that the community you live or work in is free of trash (cans, bottles, plastic bags, cups, etc.) and yard clutter. Asian tiger mosquitoes are not strong flyers but will search for a blood meal flying from one house to another. If the area around your home is clean they may be breeding in trash within a 1/4 mile of your home.
- Talk to your neighbors and share this information.
- Contact Penn State Extension York County West Nile Virus program.

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Photo Credit: Bart Drees, Texas A&M University.

Mosquito Larva

Common sources found breeding Asian Tiger Mosquitoes.



Corrugated drainage pipe is often overlooked as a potential breeding source.



Getting people to be responsible.

Butterfly Bush is a preferred nectar source.



Report Mosquito Concerns To:
Tom Smith
West Nile Virus Program Administrator

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