



Mosquitos

Why are they a problem?

Mosquitos are generally a nuisance pest but can also a public health hazard if they transmit diseases such as West Nile Virus. Most mosquitos found in Chestermere are not carriers of the virus, but occasionally we will find the typical carriers in our traps. We collaborate with surrounding communities to monitor for high levels of the typical virus transmitters.

What does the city do?

The City of Chestermere conducts a mosquito control program throughout the spring, summer and fall. This program includes monitoring, treatment and an evaluation of the treatment.

- **Monitoring**

Before a site is treated, we perform a series of dips to determine if there are mosquito larvae present. If it is determined there are enough larvae present to meet our treatment threshold, we will consider treating the area.

Prime mosquito habitat sites are ones that hold water for at least a week and have vegetation or organic matter within it. Ditches, snow melt pools, puddles, bird baths, rain barrels and storm water ponds are all examples of sites that provide habitat for mosquitos.

Large permanent pools such as storm water ponds, will not usually be a site selected for treatment as mosquitos provide a food source for other insects and animals such as frogs and dragon flies that live in these habitats.

- **Treatment**

We use a biological larvicide to treat mosquito populations at the larval stage. It is a target specific insecticide that targets mosquito larvae and is non-toxic to warm blooded animals. Controlling mosquitos at the larval stage is more effective, environmentally friendly and safer for the applicator and public. For these reasons we do not include any control of adult mosquitos in our control program.

- **Evaluation**

As with all pesticide applications, there is a post-treatment evaluation to review the efficacy of the treatment.

What Can Home Owners Do?

Home owners can keep mosquito populations down by eliminating and disturbing larval habitats. The most common sites are standing water collecting in areas around homes. This includes bird baths, rain barrels, plugged eave troughs and other areas that may be holding water for long time periods. Regular mowing also helps reduce hiding spots for adult mosquitos.

More information can be found at <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page15420.aspx>