



# 2018 Mosquito Update:

## Information to help you & your family stay safe



### Mosquito Science

- An unusually cold, snowy winter will not necessarily reduce populations – in fact, the excess moisture could contribute to more mosquitoes.
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that there is an “accelerating trend of mosquito-borne diseases introduced from other parts of the world” happening in the U.S.\*
- In 2017, there were over 2,000 cases of West Nile virus reported in the U.S.
- Although news of Zika virus has subsided, scientists believe that it is still a threat. In 2017, there were several locally acquired cases in Florida.
- The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito species is confirmed to transmit Zika virus.
- Mosquitoes can spread a parasite that causes heartworm in pets.
- Mosquitoes only need a tablespoon of water to breed.



### Protect Yourself, Your Family, and Your Pets

- ✓ Wear an EPA-approved insect repellent when outdoors.
- ✓ Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when possible to prevent mosquito bites.
- ✓ Ensure all windows and doors have screens.
- ✓ Eliminate standing water on your property.
- ✓ Remove or tip over water-collecting objects outside: flower pots, bird baths, equipment, pool covers, etc.
- ✓ Talk to your doctor if you are traveling to countries prone to mosquito-borne disease.
- ✓ Speak to a veterinarian about heartworm prevention for dogs.
- ✓ Horses can contract mosquito-borne diseases; vaccination can help with prevention.
- ✓ Have your yard treated with a preventative application to deter mosquitoes.



### Mosquito Species of Concern

There are more than 170 mosquito species in North America. These are three species commonly associated with disease spread.



*Culex pipiens*  
(House mosquito)  
Entire U.S.



*Aedes aegypti*  
(Yellow Fever mosquito)  
Southern half of U.S.



*Aedes albopictus*  
(Asian tiger mosquito)  
Eastern U.S.,  
So. California, Southwest U.S.



### Diseases and Disease-Causing Pathogens Spread by Mosquitoes

- West Nile virus
- Zika virus
- Chikungunya virus
- Eastern equine encephalomyelitis
- Heartworm (dogs)
- Dengue fever (endemic in Puerto Rico, Latin America, and other areas frequented by North American travelers)
- Malaria (not endemic to North America, but can be travel-acquired)



\* TIME, May 1, 2018, <http://time.com/5259751/diseases-mosquitoes-ticks-lyme-disease>

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