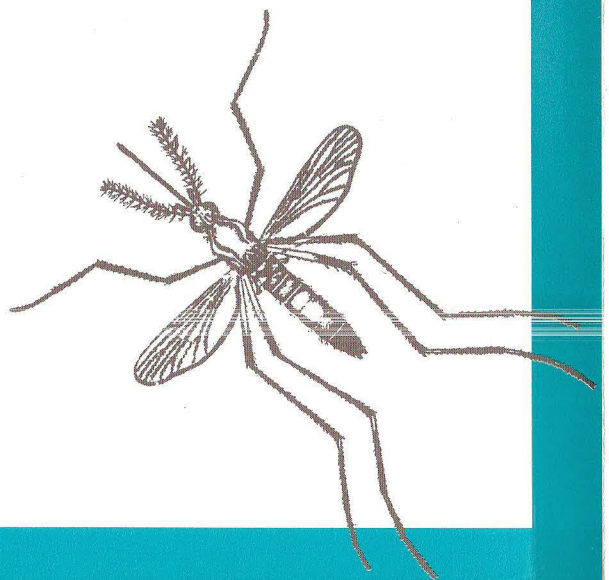
This pamphlet is intended to answer some of the most commonly asked questions about mosquito control.

The control of mosquitoes is a major concern. Public health professionals continue to monitor the diseases mosquitoes transmit; encephalitis, malaria, yellow fever, and dengue viruses. One must also consider the nuisance factor, the discomfort mosquito bites cause while we try to enjoy the outdoors.

Fortunately, modern methods of mosquito control have advanced to the point of being able to maintain comfort and prevent disease.



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Clarke Mosquito Control

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Questions on Mosquitoes?

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Commonly Asked Questions About Mosquito Control

Q. *Why do we need mosquito control programs?*

A. Without control programs the mosquito population would flourish and cause potential health and comfort problems. From a health standpoint, mosquitoes are known carriers of encephalitis, malaria, and the yellow fever and dengue viruses. Mosquito-borne diseases cause more than one million deaths each year around the world. Mosquito bites can also infect a pet with the deadly canine heartworm.

We also like to enjoy the outdoors. Well-planned municipal control programs begin by eliminating mosquito development in the early stage–the larval stage.

Q. *How can we best control mosquito breeding?*

A. By identifying their breeding sites and preventing the larvae from maturing to adults. Preventing larval development into adult mosquitoes can be accomplished through carefully planned and implemented programs while meeting sound environmental standards.

Q. *Is it necessary to spray for adult mosquitoes in populated areas?*

A. Yes. A well-planned, integrated program involves stopping mosquitoes in both the larval and adult stages. Mosquitoes can migrate up to 15 miles, which overrides local larval control efforts. This results in the need for adult mosquito control.

Q. *Are the insecticides being used for controlling mosquitoes dangerous?*

A. No. Industry and government testing procedures are so advanced and so demanding that it is virtually impossible to use a control product which could have an adverse effect upon people, animals or plant life. What's more, the insecticides being used today are not only highly effective, but also degrade rapidly.

Q. *Do mosquito control insecticides pose any threat to the environment?*

A. Insecticides are the most rigorously tested of all chemicals. They meet stringent standards before they are registered for use by the Environmental Protection Agency. When properly used by trained professionals, insecticides do their job and biodegrade quickly.

Q. *Are there methods other than the use of insecticides for controlling mosquitoes?*

A. Various control methods are constantly under review. One effective approach involves the use of mosquitofish, which can be stocked in mosquito breeding sites to feed upon the larvae.

Incidentally, studies have shown that many homeowner methods such as bug zappers, bird and bat houses, and citronella plants eliminate only a very small percentage of the mosquito population. In fact, many beneficial insects suffer the effects of these devices as well.

Q. *What can I personally do to help control mosquito development?*

A. Look for possible breeding sites in your yard and community. Advise your local officials of potential problems and let the responsible government agency implement control procedures. If adult mosquitoes become a nuisance, immediately notify your community leaders.