

Fact Sheet #2 – Mosquitoes



Description

A blood-sucking small, fragile flying insect less than 10mm long. They transmit disease, cause inflammation, pain and discomfort. Buzzing is caused by rapid wing movement but most cannot be heard unless they are close to the ear.

Habitat

With a summer life cycle from egg to adult of approximately 7 days, any standing water can be a suitable breeding place to produce thousands of mosquitoes. Larvae live totally in water whilst the adults are terrestrial, only returning to water to lay eggs. Most adult females live their 2-3 week lifespan within 2 kilometres of their birth site. Mosquitoes mostly feed on nectar and plant fluids.

Biology

There are more than 300 species in Australia. Only female mosquitoes bite and several species are responsible for the spread of diseases such as Dengue fever, Australian encephalitis, Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus. The bite draws blood to develop the eggs. Mosquitoes are stimulated by carbon dioxide, body odours, air movement and heat, particularly at dusk.

What you can do to limit infestation:

- Find and dispose of/modify containers that hold water around the home, such as pots, tyres, tins and jars.
- Screen water and septic tanks to prevent mosquitoes from entering.
- Empty and refill animal water containers at least once a week.
- Flush unused toilets once a week.
- Fix any dripping taps so they do not create semi-permanent pools of water.
- Don't over-water lawns as this can create semi-permanent pools of water.
- Replace water in plant propagation containers every week.
- Remove weeds and grass from drains to enable them to drain freely.
- Maintain swimming pool water chemistry.
- Keep fish ponds stocked with fish.
- Empty flower vases weekly.
- Put a teaspoon of salt in ant traps.







If you get an infestation:

Put your mind at rest, call 13 PEST (13 7378)

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-  SPIDERS
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