



# ECO-FRIENDLY GUIDE TO MOSQUITOS



*Enlarged Mosquito*

## Description

*Adult mosquitos are small long legged flies; they have two wings with scales and long segmented antennae. Mosquitos have long piercing/sucking mouthparts; they lay their eggs in still water*

## Infestation

*Found in Texas year round, but become more prevalent to people in the spring and summer; more apt to bite between dusk and dawn*

## Problem

*Mosquitos can carry the West Nile Virus and transmit the disease to humans who may develop severe symptoms such as high fever, headaches, coma and paralysis*

## Least Toxic Solutions

### Reduce Mosquitos

- \*Eliminate breeding sites by reducing standing water (includes old tires, bottles, buckets, and clogged gutters)
- \*Replace water at least once a week in pet dishes, bird baths and watering troughs
- \*Repair leaky outside faucets and pipes
- \*Fill in tree holes with sand and low spots in lawn with soil
- \*Stock permanent water areas with mosquito-feeding fish (Gambusia affinis can be bought in pet stores and bait shops)
- \*Consider installing nesting boxes to attract bats and birds that feed on mosquitos

### Prevent Bites

- \*Avoid being outside at the peak mosquito hours of dusk and dawn
- \*Wear light colored, loose fitting clothing when outside

### Least Toxic Products

- \*Use *Bacillus thuringiensis israeliensis* to reduce mosquitos in permanent bodies of water. These products slowly release a biological larvicide that kills them
- \*Light Citronella candles to provide short-term relief on area such as patios
- \*Insect repellent granules-Cedar is Mother Natures alternative to toxic insecticides
- \*Yardsafe Insect repellent Hose End- For use on lawns, gardens and patios
- \*Skeeter Defeeter- Citronella & Geranium oil -Hose End and Body spray

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