

Mosquito Control Update
June 13, 2013

The activity level of the southern house mosquito, *Culex quinquefasciatus*, has increased over the past couple of weeks. This species is our primary concern at this time, and increased emphasis has been directed for its control. The primary method of control is to larvicide the roadside ditches where this mosquito breeds and develops. Many of these ditches are heavily vegetated, which makes it more difficult for the liquid formulation to penetrate the vegetation to get to the water where the larvae are developing. Recently we began to use the granular formulation of the *Bti* in order to get better penetration of the product through the vegetation. Results indicate that control has increased with the use of the granules.

Over the past two weeks, the District has employed several aerial treatments to help suppress the population numbers of the southern house mosquito. A total of 97,280 acres have been treated in the Covington, Mandeville, Lacombe and Slidell areas. All aerial and ground treatments for the control of adult mosquitoes are conducted at night.

A total of 86 mosquito pools collected from gravid traps over the past two weeks have been tested for West Nile virus, and St. Louis and eastern equine encephalitis with all returning negative. For the year, we have tested 689 pools throughout the parish and all have been negative.