

Mosquito Control Update

May 8, 2014

Adult mosquito activity has increased considerably over the past few weeks due mainly to the warmer temperatures. The primary mosquito problem that we are dealing with are woodland breeding mosquitoes, such as *Aedes vexans*, *Aedes atlanticus*, and *Psorophora ferox*, produced from heavy rainfalls two and three weeks ago. Another problem species is *Aedes albopictus*, the Asian tiger mosquito, that breeds exclusively in containers that hold water such as tires, cans, vases, buckets, etc. Many of the service requests that we are receiving are for the Asian tiger mosquito commonly found in residential yards that harbor water holding containers. Residents are urged to store such containers so that they will not collect water from rainfall and breed these mosquitoes. The Asian tiger mosquito is a competent vector for West Nile virus.

Over the past couple of weeks, a total of 214,600 acres of aerial spraying for the control of adult mosquitoes has been conducted in the Covington, Mandeville, Slidell, Lacombe, Pearl River, Folsom, Talisheek, Bush, St. Tammany, and Hickory areas. In addition, spraying has been performed by truck mounted sprayers throughout the parish. With all of the treatments, adult mosquito populations have been considerably reduced.

Population levels of *Culex quinquefasciatus*, the southern house mosquito and primary vector for West Nile virus, are very low, however, this species has shown signs of increasing with the warm temperatures. The primary control for this mosquito is the spraying of the roadside ditches where they breed. Much emphasis will continue to be given for the control of the southern house mosquito.

So far this year a total of 300 mosquito pools have been tested for the presence of the West Nile virus. All pools have tested negative.