DRAGON MOSQUITO CONTROL

2016 MID-SUMMER UPDATE

Florida has the first cases of locally transmitted Zika Virus in this country. As of August 1st, there were 14 cases of the Zika Virus in humans with no travel history. Local mosquitoes are infecting people in the Miami area. Aggressive mosquito control measures are underway to minimize the spread of this disease. The CDC has advised pregnant women to avoid traveling to this part of Florida.

Currently, there are no mosquitoes in New Hampshire implicated with the Zika Virus. We continue to search for these species in southern NH and will monitor the situation closely in surrounding states.

July was hot and dry. The severe drought in southeastern NH continues to impact the mosquito population. Surveillance shows low numbers of mosquitoes which in turn leads to low numbers of samples being tested at the State Lab in Concord. Currently, no West Nile Virus (WNV) or Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) has been found in NH. The neighboring states of Vermont and Massachusetts have seen cases of WNV in mosquitoes and humans.

In areas that receive occasional thunderstorms, mosquitoes can hatch within 5-7 days. An inch or more of rain has fallen during the last week prompting larval activity in the salt marshes and man-made containers. Many swamps and woodland pools quickly absorbed the much needed water leaving those sites dry again.

This is the time of year when diseases like WNV and EEE start showing up in mosquitoes so it's important to avoid mosquito bites. Use repellent. Wear long sleeves and long pants. Make sure the screens at your house fit well and have no holes. Be sure to empty water from containers in your yard. Be vigilant to reduce your exposure to mosquitoes.

Sincerely,

Sarah MacGregor
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