

2013 Summer Update

After enduring that long snowy winter, it seems unfair to have a rainy summer. Rain, punctuated by temperatures in the 90s, completes the recipe for a buggy summer. Above average rainfall has produced a significant increase in the number of mosquitoes over the previous dry summers of 2012 and 2011. The mosquito population has decreased slightly in the last week and should continue to do so unless significant rain occurs. Recent cool nighttime temperatures will not impact the mosquito population.

Crews have been working tirelessly larviciding swamps, woodland pools, salt marshes, catch basins and other mosquito habitats all season. Catch basins were treated to reduce the number of West Nile Virus (WNV) mosquitoes. Homeowners should check any containers holding water in the yard. Check kiddie pools, dog bowls, canoes, boats, tarps, tires, trash barrels, bird baths, etc. To get rid of mosquito larvae, get rid of the water. Store items inside; turn over the container; change the water frequently in bird baths and dog bowls.

Adult mosquitoes are being trapped throughout town. Select species are sent to the State Lab in Concord where they are tested for WNV and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). To date, mosquitoes have tested positive for WNV in Pelham, Sandown and Stratham. No EEE has been found yet. A man in Hillsborough County contracted both Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV) and Powassan Virus. The odds of contracting either disease are very rare and rarer still to contract both at the same time. These diseases have never been seen in NH. Powassan Virus is transmitted by deer ticks and JCV is transmitted by mosquitoes. The man has since recovered. There have been no human cases of WNV or EEE in NH yet. There have been numerous positive mosquitoes found in Massachusetts this summer. The peak time of year for disease activity in NH tends to be Labor Day. Trapping mosquitoes and disease testing will continue until October 1st or later if the State decides to extend testing. Certain species of mosquitoes are capable of transmitting disease until we receive a killing frost. That may not occur until November. In the meantime, residents are urged to avoid getting bit by mosquitoes. Personal protective measures such as long sleeves, long pants and repellent are recommended.

Residents who want their wetland checked for mosquito larvae may email your request to info@dragonmosquito.com or call the office at 734-4144.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dragon Mosquito Control