

Spring 2013 Update

The effects of that never-ending winter will be with us throughout the spring months. Melting snow filled woodland pools, swamps and depressions washing mosquito eggs into the water where they hatch into wiggling larvae. Adult mosquitoes begin hatching during the warmer days in May. In the meantime, black flies keep us company while we're doing yard work and cleaning up the damages of winter.

Dragon Mosquito Control began checking the various wetlands in April with larviciding beginning soon thereafter. Ice and snow lingered in many swamps well into April. Data collected throughout the month reveals fairly high populations of mosquito larvae in the water. This is typical to see in the spring after a dry summer the previous year. It remains to be seen what the summer months will bring. Dry conditions will limit mosquito populations while a wet summer will produce more mosquitoes. Lack of rain during April combined with sunny, breezy days has caused numerous larval habitats to dry up in many communities. Dry conditions are bad for farmers and those battling brush fires but good for reducing the mosquito population. However, it wouldn't be spring in NH without rain in May. One or two heavy rain events would impact the mosquito population drastically.

The disease activity is expected to return during the late summer into early fall. Dry summers favor West Nile Virus (WNV) while a wet summer will favor Eastern Equine Encephalitis or EEE. Beginning in July, adult mosquitoes will be collected throughout town and sent to the State Lab in Concord where they are tested for diseases. These disease test results tell us whether mosquitoes are carrying EEE or WNV. This guides our recommendation to spray the schools, parks and athletic fields.

Residents who do not want their wetlands treated may use our No-Spray Registry online at www.DragonMosquito.com/No-Spray-Registry or write to Dragon Mosquito Control, P.O. Box 46, Stratham, NH 03885. Be sure to include your name, physical address, phone number, and a description of your property with boundaries. Otherwise, your property may be treated. Anyone who submitted a request in 2012 may contact the office to reaffirm your request. Inquiries may be emailed to info@dragonmosquito.com or call the office at 734-4144. Check out our web site: www.dragonmosquito.com where you can request a larval survey, read more about what we do or click on the link to follow us on Twitter.

Respectfully submitted,
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President
Dragon Mosquito Control, Inc.