

April 1, 2013

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Start now to prevent your home and yard from becoming a mosquito breeding site by eliminating standing water.

Adult flying mosquitoes frequently rest in grass, shrubbery or other foliage but do not develop there. Mosquitoes need standing water to breed. Different species of mosquitoes prefer different places in which to lay their eggs.

Flood-water mosquitoes lay eggs above the waterline in ditches, ponds, tanks and other places where water collects. The eggs can remain in dry conditions for several months. After floods or heavy rains when the water level rises, the eggs hatch and in a few days produce swarms of aggressive and hungry mosquitoes. Another wave of mosquitoes occurs typically 10 to 14 days after the rains stop. These mosquitoes are a big nuisance but rarely cause illnesses.

Other mosquitoes lay eggs in standing water, such as bird baths or old tires. If the water evaporates or is emptied before the eggs hatch or the larvae complete their life cycle, they die. These mosquitoes are more commonly known to transmit viruses such as West Nile. To help prevent your home and yard from becoming a mosquito breeding site, the City of Burleson offers the following suggestions:

- Get rid of standing water in rain gutters, old tires, buckets, plastic covers, toys or any other container where mosquitoes can breed.
- Empty and change the water in bird baths, fountains, wading pools, rain barrels and potted plant trays at least once a week to eliminate potential mosquito habitats.
- Keep swimming pool water treated and circulating.
- Drain temporary pools of water or fill with dirt.
- Stock ornamental ponds with fish that eat mosquitoes.
- Water lawns and gardens carefully so water does not stand for days.
- Repair any leaking plumbing and outside faucets.
- Screen rain barrels and openings to water tanks or cisterns.
- Keep drains and ditches clear of weeds and other yard waste so water will not collect.

For more information or to report areas of standing water, call Environmental Services at 817-426-9842 or visit www.burlesontx.com.