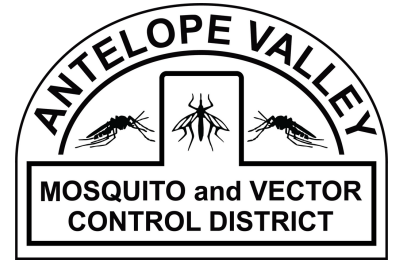


# THE VALLEY BUZZ



APRIL 2022



## April Update

SCAN ME!



BY BRENNA BATES-GRUBB

Hello Antelope Valley!

Spring has sprung once again! For many people that means picnics and the start of making summer plans, but for the mosquito control industry, spring signifies the start of peak mosquito season.

As the District continues to tackle the challenges that come along with peak mosquito season, we want to remind the community of the importance of shared responsibility when it comes to mosquito control. Right now is a good time to start making it a habit to drain standing water around your property at least weekly. It is also imperative to get pools cleaned and fully functional or drained completely dry. Hot weather is just around the corner and hot weather brings mosquitoes.

Last year there were an abundance of Aedes mosquito detections throughout the Antelope Valley. Aedes mosquitoes are able to carry and transmit very different diseases than our local Culex mosquitoes. They can carry tropical diseases such as Zika, Yellow Fever, dengue and chikungunya. There have been no detections of these diseases in the local mosquito population yet, but it remains of utmost importance to keep the Aedes mosquito population low. The lower the mosquito population, the less chance of these diseases making their way into the local mosquito population.

Local West Nile Virus indications for the 2021 season were very low, which is great news! BUT since WNV remains the most prominent mosquito-borne illness in California, we want to carry on that trend and continue to reduce the Culex mosquito population, but we can't do it without you! Shared responsibility is key.

DID YOU KNOW?!

YOU CAN HELP!

Eliminate these common sources of standing water at least weekly to prevent a mosquito issue:





## TECHNICIAN'S TIPS



Right now is the best time to get ahead of a mosquito problem by doing some basic spring cleaning



Warm weather allows mosquitoes to breed and bite in our neighborhoods. This is when fatal diseases like West Nile virus can be transmitted to humans. As springtime surrounds us, the chilly outdoors are blossoming to life-- mosquitoes included. Right now is the best time to get ahead of a mosquito problem by doing some basic spring cleaning to keep mosquitoes and their diseases out of your home. Address these common issues to prevent mosquitoes:

**Yard Junk:** A buildup of junk/unused items, old appliances, old tires, tarps, trash, kids toys, cars and so on all have hundreds of nooks and crannies that can hold standing water. Removing junk and unused items or storing them where they can't collect water will help eliminate a mosquito problem!

**Lawn and Weeds:** During the heat of the day, mosquitoes rest in cool, shady areas for protection. Mowing lawns and keeping weeds/overgrowth to a minimum will help reduce mosquitoes by making their living conditions less ideal.

**Water Features/Yard Items:** Many common water features and yard items can become a source of mosquitoes. These are some of the most common yard items that we've found to be a mosquito nuisance: 1.) Flower pots/saucers, vases or other decorative yard items-- Be sure flower pots and decorative containers have holes in the bottom to drain. Be careful not to overwater plants or allow water to pool in plant saucers. 2.) Bird baths--dump out and refresh at least weekly to flush out potential eggs or larvae. 3.) Defunct fountains--the stagnant water is a mosquito paradise. Ensuring the fountain is flowing and circulating will make it uninhabitable for mosquitoes. If the fountain is in disrepair, be sure to keep it completely dry. 4.) Firepits that don't have proper drainage--always be sure that there is a way for rain or sprinkler water to drain out of the firepit.

**Doors and Windows:** Double check doors and windows to ensure that screens are in good repair. Mosquitoes can and will take up residence in your home. Keep mosquitoes out of your home with proper screening.

### Contact us!

M-Th 8:00 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.

Fri 8:00 A.M. TO 2:30 P.M.

661.942.2917

[www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org)

### Report a mosquito nuisance/dirty Pool:

[info@avmosquito.org](mailto:info@avmosquito.org)

[avmosquito.org/contact-us.html](http://avmosquito.org/contact-us.html)

661.942.2917



Happiness and Health,

The Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District