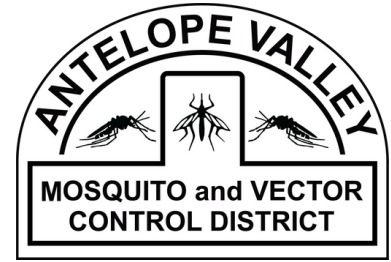


THE VALLEY BUZZ

AUGUST 2022



ANTELOPE VALLEY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT



August Update

BY BRENNA BATES-GRUBB

Hello Antelope Valley!

Happy August! Let me take these first few paragraphs to provide some updates from the information we have gathered so far this mosquito season. We have had two detections of West Nile virus in the Antelope Valley. One near 40th Street East and Avenue J8 and one near 30th Street East and Avenue H. In addition, the Invasive Aedes mosquito continues to spread to various new places around town. Our native Culex mosquitoes and the invasive Aedes mosquitoes differ in a few ways. Culex mosquitoes are responsible for the spread of West Nile virus (which is consistently detected in the AV and throughout California) and they commonly bite during dusk and dawn. Aedes mosquitoes are known to transmit Dengue, Chikungunya, Yellow Fever and Zika viruses (although we have yet to detect any instances of Aedes mosquitoes carrying disease in the state of CA) and they commonly bite during the daytime hours.

In May of 2022, the District sent out a ballot measure proposing a small annual increase so that we can continue to maintain the high level of service that we provide our community. The ballot measure needed a 50% plus one vote in favor of the increase in order for the District to implement it. Unfortunately, the ballot measure only received 45% support and did not pass. We are disheartened at the thought of having to scale back our operations, but our main priority is and always will be to protect the public health of our citizens through our integrated mosquito management program. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

Several counties throughout California have detected West Nile virus. It is important for residents to stay vigilant with personal mosquito control measures. Residents can help keep track of West Nile virus by reporting dead birds to westnile.ca.gov

SCAN ME!



DID YOU KNOW?!

Mosquito repelling candles, lights, traps, smokes and other contraptions just don't work to get rid of mosquitoes. This is because they do not eliminate the source of the mosquito problem. They might repel the mosquitoes in a small radius around the product, but the tried and true way to get rid of a mosquito problem is to eliminate the source of stagnant water they are coming from. Use an EPA approved personal insect repellent if you notice mosquitoes present.





TECHNICIAN'S TIPS



Aedes mosquitoes differ from our native Culex mosquitoes in that they seek out tiny, almost unnoticeable sources of standing water to lay their eggs.



With the uptick in *Aedes aegypti* detections in the Antelope Valley the past two seasons, let's talk a little bit about this mosquito. *Aedes aegypti* is an invasive species of mosquito that was first detected in the Antelope Valley in 2018. *Aedes* mosquitoes differ from our native *Culex* mosquitoes in that they seek out tiny, almost unnoticeable sources of standing water (generally in unsuspecting-looking containers) to lay their eggs. Our native *Culex* mosquitoes generally seek out more predictable, larger sources of water such as unkempt swimming pools, gutters and retention basins. This makes combatting *Aedes* mosquitoes much more difficult because traditional methods of mosquito management target these larger, more accessible mosquito sources rather than tiny, individual containers around residences.

Aedes mosquito eggs also differ greatly from *Culex* mosquito eggs. *Aedes* lay their eggs individually in miniscule amounts of water or along the edges of containers that hold water, near the waterline. Then once the eggs are flooded, the eggs hatch out into the water source. *Aedes* eggs are also desiccation resistant which means they can survive long periods of dryness and still hatch once they are flooded. *Culex* mosquitoes on the other hand, lay their eggs in an egg raft (consisting of up to 300 eggs) on the surface of dirty, standing water and are not desiccation resistant. Once *Culex* eggs are dumped out of the water source and dry up, they are no longer viable.

Invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes are also very resilient and will bite aggressively all through the heat of the day. They actually prefer humans for a blood meal to other meal sources. The native *Culex* mosquitoes are less aggressive and although they will definitely bite humans, they don't target them in the same way that *Aedes* mosquitoes do. *Culex* mosquitoes are also less resilient and tend to rest in cool shady areas during the heat of the day and bite during the cooler hours of dawn and dusk. Scan the QR code for more info.



Contact us!
M-Th 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.
Fri 8:00 A.M. TO 2:30 P.M.
661.942.2917
www.avmosquito.org

Aedes Eggs
Deposited on side of a barrel
just above the water line



Culex Egg Rafts
Deposited on the surface
of standing water



Report a mosquito nuisance/dirty Pool:
info@avmosquito.org
avmosquito.org/contact-us.html
661.942.2917

Happiness and Health,
The Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District