

The Town of Portsmouth is proactive with its mosquito abatement program, placing an environmentally benign product in catch basins and various bodies of water to kill mosquito larvae. But YOU can help! Please read the following excerpts from URI's "GreenShare" factsheet written by Kristen Bartlett about mosquitoes:

Breeding Sites:

Mosquitoes breed in areas where there is standing water or temporary pools. Mosquitoes commonly breed in saltmarshes, swamps and areas flooded by snow melts and spring rains. However, a small collection of water around a home can breed thousands of mosquitoes. Some common sites are bird baths, roof gutters, catch basins, rain barrels, swimming pools, wading pools, cesspools, septic tanks, tires, paint buckets, tin cans, yard debris, tree holes and anywhere that holds a small collection of water.

Elimination of Breeding Sites:

One of the easiest and surest ways to control mosquitoes around the home is to eliminate standing-water breeding sites. Containers such as wading pools or bird baths should be flushed weekly with clean water. Filtering systems for swimming pools should keep a swimming pool free from immature mosquitoes. Seal openings to standing-water sources such as septic tanks or rainwater barrels. Search for and eliminate standing-water sources. Old tires or discarded containers of most any sort can collect water and attract the female mosquito for her egg laying. One tire holds enough water to breed thousands of mosquitoes. Drainage ditches, pools with lots of vegetation and sites such as roof gutters and storm drains, which occasionally hold water, can breed mosquitoes. Areas that contain fish and other natural enemies of mosquito larvae, like amphibians and insects, are not effective breeding sites because these animals eat the larvae. If waterways are clogged with vegetation, mosquitoes can survive. Check natural sites like holes in trees or stumps where water can accumulate, and fill or prevent entry by adult mosquitoes.

A minor disadvantage of living in this beautiful, coastal community with 56 miles of shoreline is that we must deal with the saltmarsh mosquito as well as other mosquito types (DEM states that RI is home to 46 different mosquito species!). These aggressive biters hatch after a monthly high tide.

The town, with permission from RIDEM, sprayed for adult mosquitoes using a broad spectrum adulticide, Anvil 10+ 10- ULV, on August 23, 2012 on Norseman, Viking, Valhalla and the Common Fence and Island Park neighborhoods.

Any resident that objected to the spraying was able to opt out by calling a Mosquito Hotline that was set up for that purpose. DEM reported no adverse effects from the spraying.

Go to the DEM Web Site for More Information on Mosquitoes.