

# Fight Back Against Disease-Carrying Mosquitoes

SOURCE Summit Responsible Solutions

According to mosquito expert Joe Conlon, Technical Advisor for the American Mosquito Control Association, it is impossible to live in a completely mosquito-free environment. Wherever there's moisture there will be mosquitoes—even in times of drought. But you can reduce your chances of getting bitten by mosquito pests by being "mosquito smart" and reducing places where mosquitoes can breed.

## **Reduce Mosquito Breeding Sites**

It doesn't take much standing water to become a mosquito breeding site. "Some species of mosquitoes can breed in as little as a bottlecap full of water," said Jonathan Cohen, mosquito control expert and President of Summit Responsible Solutions. "That's why homeowners need to be vigilant in eliminating places where water can collect and stand in their yards and gardens."

To reduce mosquito breeding grounds, dispose of cans, plastic containers, old tires and other items that can collect water. Turn over wheelbarrows and empty children's wading pools. Clean clogged roof gutters, which can become prime mosquito-breeding pools. Periodically empty the saucers under ceramic pots to make sure they are not harboring mosquito larvae.

To prevent mosquitoes from breeding in places where water collects-including ponds, bird baths, animal watering troughs, gutters, tree holes and rain barrels-use a mosquito control product that contains BTI to kill mosquito larvae. BTI (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*) is a bacterium that naturally kills mosquito larvae before they can grow up to become flying, biting, disease-spreading adults. Even though BTI is deadly to mosquito larvae, it is harmless to people, pets, fish, wildlife and beneficial insects.

BTI is the active ingredient in Mosquito Dunks®, the number-one selling biological mosquito control product. When a donut-shaped Mosquito Dunk® is placed in standing water, the BTI in the Dunk™ will kill mosquito larvae for up to 30 days.

In places where small amounts of water collect-such as tree holes, potted plant saucers and water reservoirs in self-watering planters, a BTI product called Mosquito Bits® is a good way to kill mosquito larvae. Mosquito Bits® granules can be sprinkled into virtually any place where water can collect. Mosquito Bits® can also be used to kill mosquito larvae in swampy areas and other areas where water cannot be drained. In addition, Mosquito Bits® are highly effective as a "shock treatment" in water where immediate larval control is needed due to an extremely dense population of mosquito larvae, because the Bits release all of the active ingredient, BTI, at once. The Mosquito Bits® application can be immediately followed by the addition of the Mosquito Dunks® for long-term control.

To kill adult mosquitoes, use a permethrin-based insecticide such as Summit® Mosquito and Gnat Barrier. The permethrin in Summit® Mosquito and Gnat Barrier kills and repels mosquitoes and other insect pests for up to four weeks. Simply attach a garden hose to the

hose-end sprayer bottle and spray the yard perimeter and fences, plus the lawn and vegetation where mosquitoes can hide and rest.

By reducing exposure to mosquitoes, limiting breeding sites and using the most effective types of mosquito control products, you can greatly reduce your chances of being bitten by disease-carrying mosquitoes.

