

DRAGON MOSQUITO CONTROL, INC.

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May Update

Spring's arrival can be a mixed blessing. Seeing new birds in the yard, flowers blooming in the garden and warmer temperatures are welcome signs of spring. Allergies from all the airborne pollen, swatting black flies and mosquitoes and realizing your mower won't start are less desirable signs. In any season, there are things we love and hate. Mosquitoes and other annoying flies are high on that list. It's even more annoying when they get in the house.

Keeping bugs out of the house can turn into a constant battle. It's a good idea to check your screens for holes or gaps where bugs may enter your house. A screen repair kit is a great item to keep on hand for quick repairs when the family pet makes a hole in the screen. Make sure the slider is fully closed, don't leave doors open especially at night as many bugs are attracted to light and find their way inside. Over the holiday weekend, I either killed or evicted numerous insects in my home including moths, stink bugs and flies.

Homeowners should check their yards for containers that hold water such as buckets, birdbaths, tarps, canoes, trashcans, flower pots, etc. Mosquitoes will lay eggs in those containers and adult mosquitoes will hatch in a week or less. Change bird bath water frequently; empty trash cans of water; put items inside when possible or store upside down to prevent water from collecting. Container mosquitoes are carriers of West Nile Virus so your effort is likely to reduce the occurrence of disease in your neighborhood.

During May Dragon crews have:

- Checked wetlands for mosquito larvae
- Responded to house call requests looking for mosquito larvae in wet areas
- Treated wetlands when necessary with Bti
- Monitored catch basins for larval mosquito activity
- Mapped new no-spray requests

A windy May with little rain has allowed many shallow wet areas to dry which kills mosquito larvae. Heavy rains will replenish that water and trigger more mosquito activity. Crews check sites numerous times throughout the season to monitor and control mosquitoes.

Predictions for the mosquito season are difficult to make. New England's long range forecast is for above average temperatures and near average rainfall this summer. In addition, a busy hurricane season is expected. Warm, wet weather is ideal for mosquitoes. Dragon will continue working to reduce the disease carrying mosquito population. As nearly every monthly update recommends, avoid mosquito bites. Prevention is the best option.