

The Mosquito Control Story

- Ever wonder, as you feel that annoying sting and scratch the lingering itch of mosquito bites, “Can’t anything be done to eliminate these pests?” The answer is, “Yes! Something is being done everyday to control mosquitoes in Jacksonville.”
- Duval County has a modern mosquito control program that has been active since 1957. Today this unit joins with over 50 other mosquito control districts in Florida to lead the nation in community based mosquito control.
- Some tools of the trade you may already recognize include:
 - **Fog Trucks**
This is what most people visualize when they think of mosquito control. Fog trucks were one of the earliest and most effective weapons against disease carrying mosquitoes. This remains true today.
 - **Insecticides**
These come in many forms and are safer now than ever before thanks to new developments and alternative products. Insecticides are not the total solution, but they are an essential part of integrated pest control.
 - **Larvicides:** materials applied to standing water where mosquitoes breed. Larvicides used in Jacksonville include surface oils, growth inhibitors, and endotoxins.
 - **Adulticides:** insecticide that targets adult flying mosquitoes. The primary adulticide used contains pyrethroid, a synthetic form of a natural pesticide found in chrysanthemums.
 - **Light Traps**
These are special collection devices that are placed in many Jacksonville neighborhoods to monitor mosquito populations. They operate from dusk to dawn when most mosquitoes are active.
 - **Sentinel Chickens**
Blood samples are routinely taken from special flocks of chickens to determine if disease organisms are being spread among birds by mosquitoes.
 - **Aircraft**
These are used to treat large areas such as coastal and rural flood planes.
 - **Biological Control**
Natural mosquito predators include minnows, various birds, bats, insects, and other aquatic organisms. Mosquitoes do not thrive where competition is fierce.
 - **Drainage**
This is the oldest and most reliable solution to mosquito breeding. This process eliminates the standing water needed for mosquito development.
 - **Homeowners like you!**
That’s right! Everybody can participate in mosquito control by getting rid of standing water that breeds mosquitoes. Buckets, tires, cans, children’s toys and pools, boats, bird baths and pet dishes, and even plastic bags can hold enough water for mosquitoes to breed! Premise sanitation is the best prevention of “homegrown” mosquitoes.



City of Jacksonville
Environmental and Compliance Department
Mosquito Control Division
Web site: www.coj.net/mosquito
Spray Requests: (904) 630-CITY (630-2489)