

WEST VALLEY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL



The Valley Buzz!

Invasive *Aedes* – Super Survivalists!

There are some pretty unique things *Aedes aegypti* do that make them so successful in our backyards.

One of the survival techniques *Aedes aegypti* employ is called skip oviposition, which means they lay a few eggs over several sites. Our native *Culex* mosquitoes lay their eggs on the surface of the water, gluing them together, forming what we call an egg raft. These rafts can consist of 50 to 200 eggs that float around until the larvae wriggle out into the water. *Aedes* lay their eggs singly, attaching them to the sides of containers typically just above the water line, and they will visit multiple water bodies. Spreading their eggs out increases their chances of hatching and survival.

Another strategy they employ, the one that makes them so unbearable to us, is they bite multiple times in single feeding session. Our native *Culex* will bite and continuously take in blood until they fill up. On the other hand, *Aedes* will bite, take some blood, then fly away. They will do this several times, until they have their fill of blood. This lessens the chance of them getting swatted, it's also why we end up with so many itchy bites!

Despite their skills, we can fight back. Using a CDC recommended repellent to fend off bites and scrubbing containers then rinsing and dumping them out can help you in the fight against the bite! Of course we are here to help too, call us for an inspection and we can determine how best to help you!



Mosquito repellent is crucial!

Sterile Male Releases Going Great

The District's X-Ray irradiated male releases are now integrated into our IPM program. Releases are being conducted at historical hotspots bi-weekly. Mosquito numbers are staying low, a good sign that our system is working. We are excited about this new tool to use against Invasive *Aedes*, but we still need to use all our resources to keep mosquito populations down, including help from you!

We continue to monitor known places such as dairies, flood control channels, and stormwater retention devices, but we know that *Aedes* love backyards. Calling us for a service request at 909-635-0307 can help us to identify sources and determine the best methods of management.

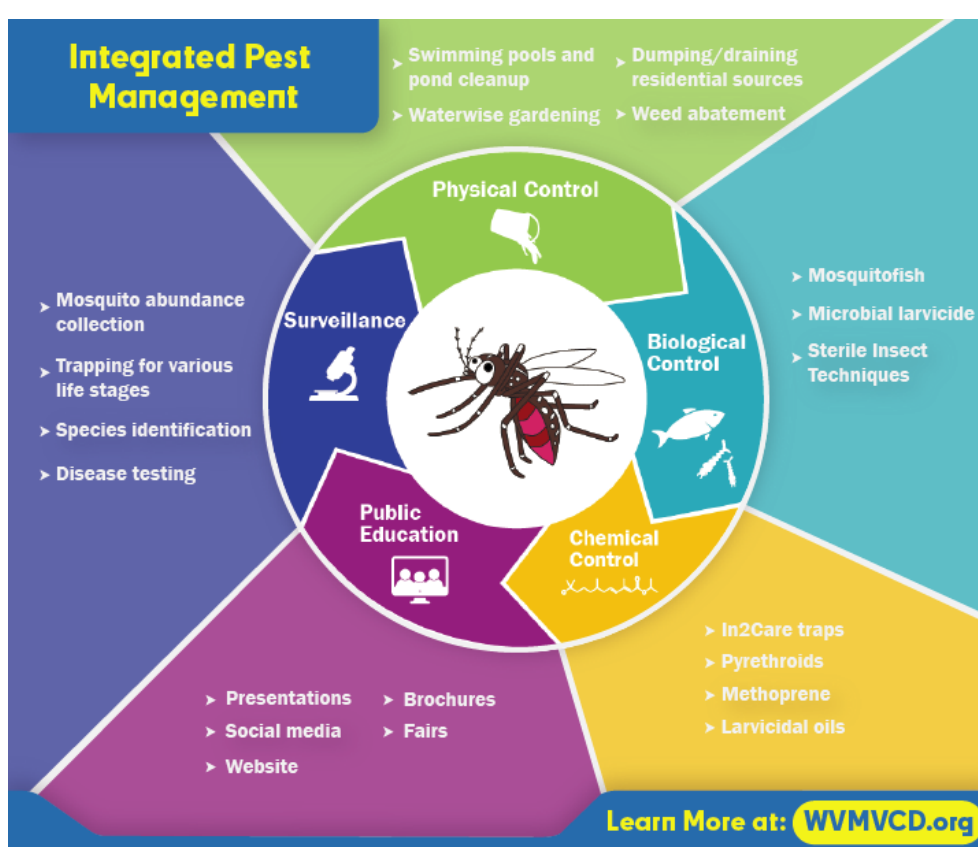


Vector Ecologists preparing to release sterile males

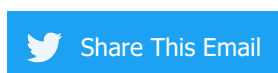
Integrated Pest Management Approach (IPM)

The West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District employs an IPM approach that focuses on the immature stages of mosquitoes. IPM aims to have the maximum effect on mosquitoes and the least effect on the environment. Adult mosquitoes are relatively short-lived but are constantly replenished by the hundreds of eggs and larvae they produce.

Treating larvae and pupae and most importantly, removing breeding sources is the most effective way of dealing with mosquitoes. We are constantly monitoring large sites, but backyard access is crucial for us too. We begin our residential process by setting up an inspection, our trained and State certified technicians will inspect your area and can determine how best to help. It just takes a call to us to begin!



Our IPM strategy



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