

WEST VALLEY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL



The Valley Buzz!

West Nile virus showing up in California

June has brought with it warming temperatures and the first indications of West Nile virus in Southern California. Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Diego Counties have reported the virus in mosquito samples.

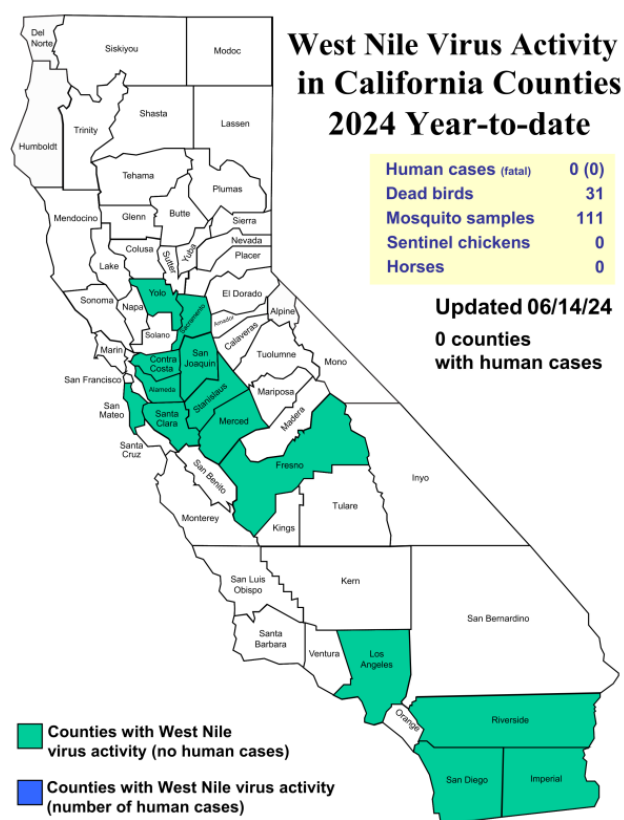
We are still seeing very low mosquito numbers in our routine surveillance traps and have not had any positive mosquito samples in our area to date. Our pre-season In2Care stations and sterile male releases have been working well, but the increase in virus activity serves as a reminder to get your home ready for summer. Follow these steps to reduce your chance of mosquito bites.

Dump Standing Water: Mosquitoes must have standing water to complete their life cycle. Eliminating potential sources is one of the most effective ways to reduce mosquitoes around the home.

Doors and Windows: Make sure door and window screens fit tightly and there are no holes/gaps in the screens. Also try to minimize the amount of time your doors (even garage doors) stay open. Mosquitoes will fly into garages and homes, just waiting for you to show up!

Repellents: use an EPA registered and CDC recommended repellent when outdoors. Repellents with the active ingredients DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, and IR3535 are the most tested and proven repellents available today.

You can visit our [website](#) every Friday to get updates on local testing results and check www.westnile.ca.gov for results on a statewide level.



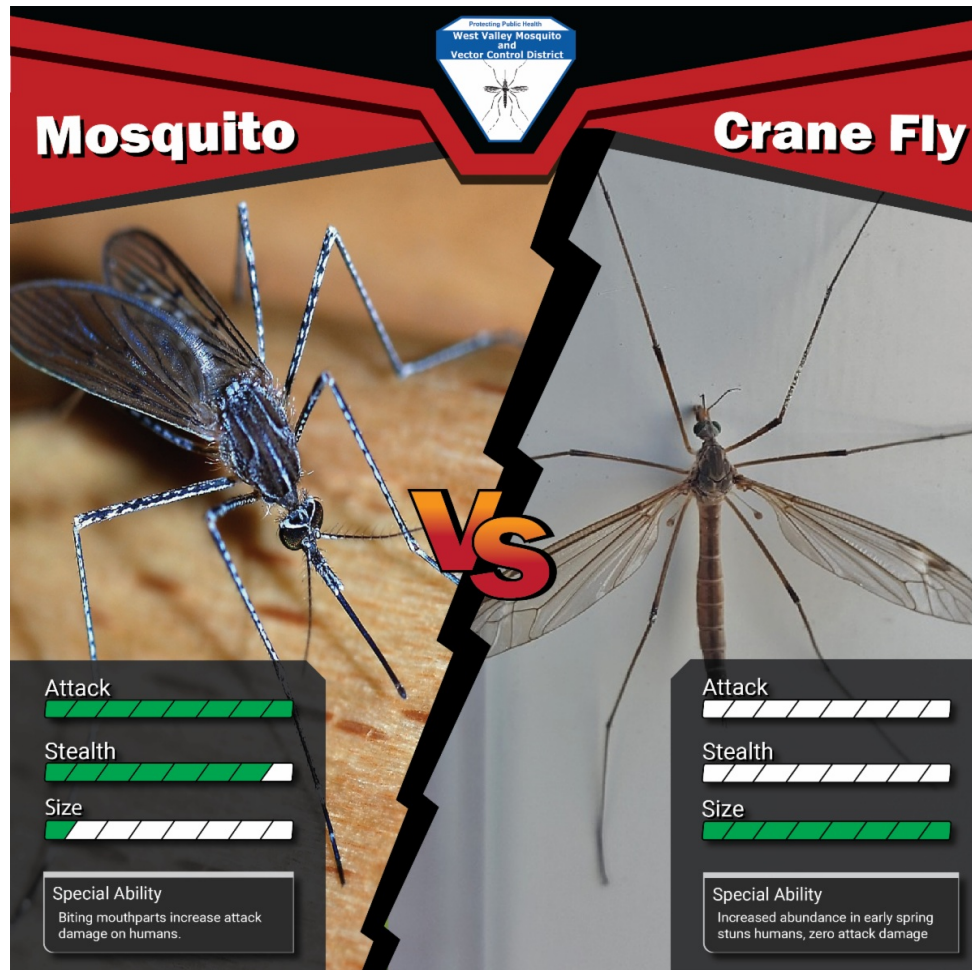
California West Nile virus website map

Crane flies Vs. Mosquitoes

As the weather warms up, we are getting the question, "What's that big brown mosquito called"? These are actually crane flies.

There is a fair bit of lore surrounding these critters, but crane flies are just harmless doddering harbingers of summer, not giant bloodsucking beasts nor ruthless predators of mosquitoes. Crane flies are flying insects in the order *Tipulidae* and though they look like giant mosquitoes, they don't bite or sting people. As adults, most don't even eat, and those that do just sip plant nectar. This means these "mosquito hawks" can't predate on mosquitoes either!

Even though they can be a bit bothersome when they bumble their way into homes, they are an important part of a healthy environment, and their ephemeral nature means they'll be gone before you can say "summertime"!

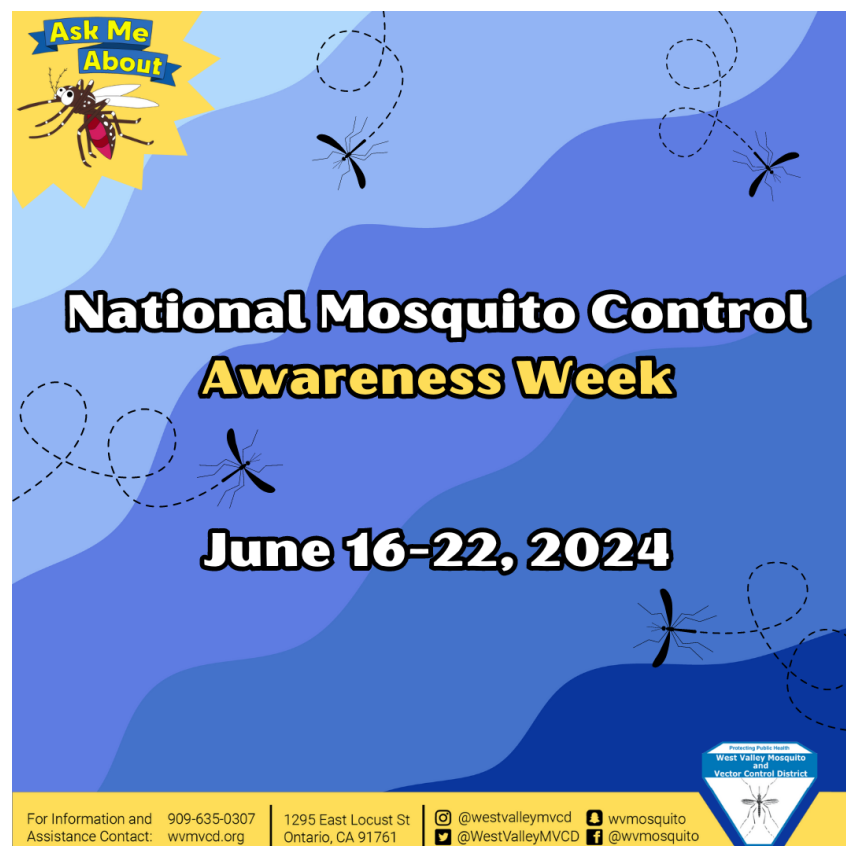


Crane Fly vs. Mosquito graphic

National Mosquito Control Awareness Week June 16-22

National Mosquito Control Awareness Week is a campaign designed to educate folks on the importance of mosquitoes and the diseases they carry, and the importance of managing them.

We will be posting information about our "tools of the trade", the equipment that helps us reduce mosquito populations on our social media platforms throughout the week. Join us this week and help us spread the word about mosquito control!



Join us in celebrating mosquito control!

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