



Mosquito Control

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (410-841-5700) in cooperation with St. Mary's County Government, provides an Integrated Pest Management program for mosquito control on Community-level basis. Those Communities in the program are identified on the MDA web site identified bellow.

This includes surveillance of wetland habitats, applications of insecticide for control of mosquito larvae, biological control, public education, investigating mosquito complaints and responding to requests for service. The link to the Maryland Department of Agriculture web page for mosquito control is [MDA/St. Mary's County Mosquito Control Program](#). Tips to Rid Your Community of Mosquito Breeding Sites are also provided on the MDA website.

. The St. Mary's County Health Department has developed a Toolkit that Homeowners' Associations and housing communities can use to launch a Neighborhood Mosquito Source Reduction Campaign. In addition to being a general nuisance, mosquitos are known to cause various illnesses such as dengue, chikungunya and Zika virus disease. A Mosquito Source Reduction Campaign helps neighborhoods decrease local mosquitos by getting homeowners to remove sources of mosquito breeding in their yards. Homeowners' Association volunteers or others coordinating a neighborhood campaign could share information with their neighbors about how to reduce mosquitoes. Campaigns could also involve neighborhood volunteers going door-to-door in their communities to help property owners detect and address mosquito breeding sites. The Neighborhood Mosquito Source Reduction Campaign Toolkit contains outreach materials, template letters to property owners, sample community newsletter articles, and additional information to address neighborhood mosquito control. The Toolkit materials are available electronically at www.smchd.org/mosquito-control. For more information about implementing a neighborhood mosquito source reduction campaign in your community, please visit [St. Mary's County Health Department - Mosquito Control](#) or call the Health Department's Environmental Health Division at (301) 475-4321.

Current Mosquito Control Program Activities

LARVICIDING – starts March time-frame through end of September. This is depended upon how bad the mosquitoes are. Larviciding is conducted between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. If you are having issues with mosquitoes, you can call the office to submit a complaint.

If there is a lock on your Community Pond Gate, please remove it to allow access for Mosquito Control Technicians. If for some reason you do not want the pond addressed by Mosquito Control DO place a sign on the gate stating your intentions. For instance, if the pond is an amphibian habitat that you

would prefer not to receive additional chemical treatment or aggressive fish species introduction, please identify it as such.

- [Larviciding](#) is conducted by trained and experienced day shift personnel that can treat standing water problems with dry chemicals.
- There is no charge to the community or individual for MDA staff to come out and treat ponds or look for mosquito breeding areas
- If you have a storm water retention pond that occasionally fills up with water and it takes a while for the water to dry up or drain out, we can treat it with dry chemicals. The Altosid Briquettes we use are water activated. Meaning as long as they are submerged in water, they can release the growth inhibitor into the water that is present. Once the area dries the briquette will stop releasing the chemical and will wait for it to be submerged again to reactivate. The Altosid comes in 2 kinds, 30 day Altosid will last for 30 submerged days and 150 day will last for 150 submerged days.
- If you have a pond that has fish in it, we can't treat that. The chemicals can have adverse effects on the fish that are in the pond, and most small fish will naturally help control mosquito larvae by eating the larvae. MDA can and often does place Gambusi (pronounced, Gam-Boo-C) fish into the pond from another stocked pond, if the technician feels that the area is appropriate for sustaining their life. Gambusi are voracious feeders and enjoy a good mosquito larvae buffet. An additional description is found on the MDA web Site Under [Mosquito Control Options](#)
- The use of fish is particularly effective in controlling the aquatic stages of the mosquito. The Mosquito Control Program maintains several rearing ponds throughout Maryland to propagate *Gambusia holbrooki* (mosquito fish) for distribution to appropriate mosquito breeding sites.
- If we do treat the pond with chemicals, [it is safe](#) for animals and children, [unless they somehow get a hold of the actual briquette and ingest it](#). If this happens, they need to immediately contact the [Maryland Poison Control hotline \(1-800-222-1222\)](#) for medical assistance. If a pond or area of water has been treated, the water is safe for ingestion and contact with humans or animals. The briquettes can be used in large watering troughs for animals without concern.

Funding

All programs are funded by the Maryland Department of Agriculture, the St. Mary's County Government and/or Local Communities. The budget for mosquito control is funded by the County, local community contributions, and other State appropriations.