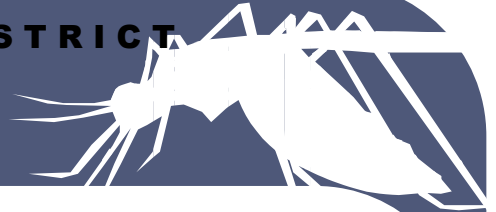




Mosquito Control



Frequently Asked Questions

Who looks after mosquito control in my area?

The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) administers mosquito control for:

- Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Harrison Hot Springs, Hope, Kent and Mission
- Electoral Areas A-G within the FVRD
- Participating First Nations

How is mosquito control achieved?

Mosquito populations are decreased by minimizing breeding habitat and by reducing the number of larvae that develop into biting adults. Tasks include:

- Locating breeding habitat and physically altering it if possible/appropriate
- Mapping breeding habitat that is suitable for larvicide treatment
- Monitoring temperature, precipitation and river level as indicators of larval activity
- Routine surveying of mapped sites for larval density
- Treating these sites with an environmentally sensitive, species-specific larvicide

What types of mosquitoes are targeted?

• Nuisance Mosquitoes

These species do not commonly carry disease in this region; however, their feeding habits are bothersome and may result in an annoying, itchy “bite”.

• West Nile Virus (WNV) Vector Mosquitoes

These species have potential to transmit WNV, which is a mosquito borne disease that humans may contract through the bite of an infected mosquito. In rare cases complications can include inflammation of the brain, meningitis or paralysis.



Where do these mosquitoes develop?

- **Nuisance Mosquito** larvae are found in flood water that creeps or seeps into low-lying areas as a river rises and falls each year. Each peak in the river level will bring a fresh batch of these mosquitoes, with the highest peaks that cause the greatest area of flooding also causing the greatest number of mosquitoes.
- **WNV Vector Mosquito** larvae are commonly found in warm, nutrient-rich, standing water such as that found around your home in backyard containers or gutters and within slow moving ditches and storm drains.

Mosquito

Life Cycle 

Stage 1: Egg



Mosquitoes lay eggs on the water's surface or on damp ground that will be flooded. Eggs can lay dormant over winter (or longer for some species), but once in contact with water, they develop into larvae over 2-3 days.

Stage 2: Larva



Larvae emerge from the eggs to live and eat within the water typically for 5-10 days. During this time they shed their skin 4 times growing larger with each molting.

Stage 3: Pupa



On the 4th molt the larva changes into a pupa which rests just below the water's surface. This is a non-feeding stage, as the adult mosquito is developing inside for about 2 days.

Stage 4: Adult



The adult mosquito emerges from the pupa. It rests on the surface of the water until it is strong enough to fly away, where it will eat and reproduce the next generation of mosquitoes.

What is larvicide & how does it work?

A larvicide targets mosquito larvae. Spreadable corn pellets are coated with a non-toxic bacterial substance (Bti or Bsp) that damages the larvae's digestive track, but is harmless to vertebrates (mammals, birds, fish, amphibians) and to non-targeted invertebrates (insects), except for black flies and some midges.

How is mosquito control regulated?

The BC Provincial Government's Integrated Pest Management Act regulates mosquito control and requires the FVRD to follow a Pest Management Plan that guides its operations, allowing for effective, responsible and environmentally sensitive control.

How is the program funded?

The Nuisance Mosquito Control Program is funded through regional property tax requisition. All West Nile Virus related activities are directed by the Fraser Health Authority and funded through a special grant from the BC Provincial Government.

You can help!

YOU can report high mosquito concentrations to the FVRD's Mosquito Control Hotline at 1-888-733-2333, which will help us to potentially identify new or previously undetected breeding habitat.

YOU can also help by reducing mosquito breeding habitat around your own property - check out the "Mosquito-Proof Your Property!" section below.



Mosquito-Proof Your Property!

- Fix leaky outdoor faucets to prevent pooling of water
- Install screens in your doors and windows
- Dispose of old tires that can contain water
- Change water in birdbaths & potted-plant saucers weekly
- Turn your compost frequently
- Keep swimming pools maintained and chlorinated
- Cover rain barrels with fine mesh or netting
- Clear storm drains and roof gutters of debris
- Overturn wheelbarrows to prevent water from accumulating



• Fight the Bite!



When outside,

- Wear long-sleeved shirts & pants that are loose fitting with a tight weave and are light in colour
- Minimize your time outdoors at dawn and dusk
- Use insect repellent with DEET (according to label instructions)



Health Related Questions?

Fraser Health Authority

www.fraserhealth.ca
1. 888. WNV LINE (1-888-968-5463)

BC Centre for Disease Control

www.bccdc.org

BC NurseLine-HealthLink BC

www.healthlinkbc.ca
8-1-1 (from anywhere in BC)
7-1-1 (for the hearing impaired)

Mosquito Control Questions?

FVRD Mosquito Control Hotline

1-888-733-2333
www.fvrd.bc.ca
mosquitoes@fvrd.bc.ca