

## Kev's Guide to - Mosquitoes

There are approximately 100 species of mosquitoes in Western Australia, a number of which are serious pests and/or disease vectors. Effective mosquito management can help to minimise the public health risk and impact on amenity associated with mosquitoes.

Mosquito management is only necessary if people and mosquitoes come into contact, either in residential or recreational areas that are within the dispersal range of mosquito breeding habitats. The overall aim of mosquito management is to reduce pest or vector mosquitoes to a level where the impact on the adjacent human population is kept to an acceptable level.

Effective mosquito management aims to:

- employ an integrated approach, combining various management strategies (chemical, physical, cultural and biological)
- minimise the interaction between mosquitoes and the public
- minimise the risk of mosquito-borne disease transmission
- remain environmentally and economically sustainable

### **Understanding Mosquito Habitats**

Different mosquito species have different breeding habitat requirements. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in or near a water source, which can be either fresh, brackish or saline, depending on the species. They prefer standing water in both natural and/or man-made water bodies.

Natural habitats include:



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- salt marsh
- lakes
- swamps
- ground pools
- irrigation ditches
- tree holes
- leaf axils (crevice formed between stem of plant and leaf).

In urban environments, particularly backyards, mosquitoes breed in range of water-holding containers. The removal or maintenance of these sites can significantly reduce mosquito numbers. Common examples include:

- pot plant drip trays
- septic and water tanks
- roof gutters
- ponds
- disused containers
- poorly maintained swimming pools
- dog water bowls
- disused car tyres.

### **Kev's Mosquito Treatment**

Starts with the phone convocation to the client, what are the conditions of the block ie do you have mature gardens, do you have pot plants, hedges, over grown areas. Can the long grass be trimmed back, can bushes and small trees be pruned to allow better air flow, is the client ok with removing drip trays and sitting water? In some cases, there are areas with not enough contributing factors to suggest that a treatment will help. Such as, your block being very open with no real gardens, plants etc in this case we would not recommend a mosquito treatment because there will be no real benefits. The importance of listening to our clients helps us help you.



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Then we talk about treatments in cases where we believe we can help you. This normally involves spraying in hedges, the under side of plants, areas shaded from afternoon sun, behind and under AC units, under patio furniture, all garden areas including mulch, up into trees to get chemical on the under side of leaves anywhere and everywhere a mosquito waits in the heat of the day for the sun to set.

Done correctly this treatment will last you though summer with a 70% to 80% improvement on current conditions.

Approx. cost \$250 on a 750sqm block



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