

ADVICE FOR THE HOMEOWNER

Locate Mosquito Breeding Sites:

If you are unable to locate breeding sites, call your local mosquito control program and request that one of their personnel help locate these sites.

Typical mosquitoes breeding sites are:

- Low areas that hold water for several days.
- River and stream floodplains.
- Drainage ditches that hold water.
- Overflowing septic tanks.
- Tires.
- Bird baths.
- Unmaintained swimming pools.
- Tree holes.
- Containers that hold water: cans, bottles, flower pots, buckets, roof gutters, etc.

Drain, Fill or Eliminate Any Area That Holds Water:

- Clean drainage ditches of debris and weeds.
- Tree holes may be packed with sand or cement.
- Maintain swimming pools with proper pools chemicals.
- Stock ornamental ponds/pools with mosquito-eating fish.
- Containers should be emptied and overturned.
- Gutters should be cleaned out regularly.
- Change water in bird baths and flower cuttings every few days.
- Keep boats drained and covered or overturned.

Mosquitoes Can Transmit

Malaria
Yellow Fever
Encephalitis
Dengue (breakbone) Fever
Dog Heartworm

Mosquitoes Do Not Transmit

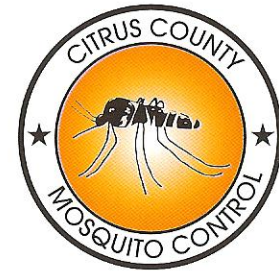
HIV (AIDS)

Citrus County Mosquito Control District

Citrus County Mosquito Control District
P.O. Box 153
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352-527-7478 / Fax 352-527-9567

Commissioners
Brenda Buzby

The Citrus County Mosquito Control District is an independent special taxing district separate from the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners.



CITRUS COUNTY BITES BACK

All mosquitoes must have water to develop. Most prefer slow-moving or stagnant water in which to lay their eggs. One tablespoon of water will breed over 200 mosquitoes. During warm weather, mosquitoes can complete their life cycle in 4 days.

Only the female mosquito bites. She needs a blood meal to produce viable eggs. The itching of the mosquito "bite" is caused by a small amount of saliva that the female injects to prevent the blood from clotting.

WEST NILE ENCEPHALITIS

West Nile encephalitis is an infection of the brain caused by West Nile virus.

West Nile is closely related to St. Louis encephalitis.

West Nile virus occurs nearly world wide and was isolated in the eastern U.S. in mid 1999.

People can get West Nile virus after being bitten by a mosquito that has fed on an infected bird.

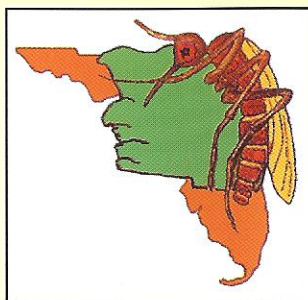
West Nile encephalitis can not be transmitted from one person to another.

You can reduce your risk of becoming infected with West Nile virus by doing the following:

- Stay indoors at dawn, dusk, and early evening when mosquitoes are present.
- Wear long-sleeve shirts and long pants when outdoors during these times.
- Apply insect repellent sparingly to exposed skin (Deet not greater than 35%) and be sure to follow manufacturer's DIRECTIONS FOR USE.
- Try to stay away from areas infested with mosquitoes.

ST. LOUIS ENCEPHALITIS

Q. What is St. Louis Encephalitis?



A. St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE) is a viral disease transmitted by a common mosquito species, *Culex nigripalpus*. Since its recognition in St. Louis, Missouri

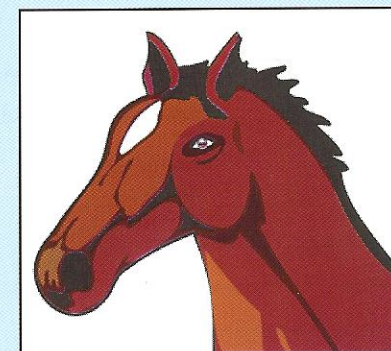
in 1933, epidemics have occurred infrequently and unpredictably. In Florida, major SLE epidemics occurred in 1959, 1961, 1962 and 1977. Most people who contract the virus survive, with infants and seniors at greater risk of developing severe symptoms. The mortality rate among those over 50 is 7-24%. SLE symptoms range from flu-like headaches, fever and a stiff neck in mild cases to convulsions and coma in severe cases. Because SLE symptoms may mimic those of other illnesses, examination and blood tests by trained medical professionals is the only way to confirm the disease. During SLE epidemics many people mildly infected with the virus do not develop severe enough symptoms to warrant a doctor's visit. Presently, there is no vaccine to prevent the disease, nor is there a cure, so prevention is the best defense.

Q. How can I protect myself against SLE?

A. By preventing mosquito bites.

- If outside after sunset, wear long sleeves and pants. Apply mosquito repellent (according to label directions).
- Use flying insect spray inside your home. Apply according to label directions.
- Repair or replace torn window screens.
- Don't lure birds and/or small mammals onto your property. They can harbor the SLE virus and attract more mosquitoes.
- Plan to be inside after dark, until the mosquito season ends.

Background on Eastern Equine Encephalitis



- Eastern equine encephalitis is a viral disease that attacks the central nervous system of horses.
- It is spread by mosquitoes, which transmit the disease from infected birds.
- Transmission of the disease from horse to horse or from horse to humans is highly unlikely.
- The mortality rate for infected horses is 50-90 percent.
- Vaccinating horses properly will prevent them from contracting the disease.
- Disease prevention measures also include the elimination of sources of stagnant water, where mosquitoes may breed, and spraying with approved insecticides.
- Symptoms of the disease in horses include fever, impaired vision, irregular gait, reduced reflexes, inability to swallow, occasional convulsions and death.
- In rare cases, humans may contract the disease.
- The disease is most commonly detected in horses from April through August.