



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of Plant Industries and Pest Management

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Mosquito Control

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MEMORANDUM:

To: Maryland Registered Beekeepers
Date: June 1, 2017
Re: Mosquito Control Spray Program Update

As the 2017 mosquito season gears up, the Maryland Department of Agriculture is providing you with this update on how disease and nuisance related spraying activities will be handled this year.

New This Year

Backpack sprayers will replace the truck-mounted ULV foggers used in last year's Zika response protocol. The backpack sprayers were used last year, but this year they will have a more prominent role in the program. After a review of last year's protocols, the state has determined that backpack spraying is a more targeted, efficient method of adulticiding for *Aedes* mosquitoes. **Residents in the areas where backpack spraying is needed will be notified and spraying will not occur unless permission is granted.**

Zika Response

Zika virus continues to be a major public health concern, and we remain vigilant in our efforts to fight the disease here in Maryland. Maryland departments of Agriculture and Health and Mental Hygiene urge residents to work with the agencies in preventing Zika virus and other mosquito-borne disease in Maryland. The department's Mosquito Control program will be active in communities throughout the state conducting surveillance and a variety of control measures to manage mosquito populations.

The department's Mosquito Control program will work closely with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and local health departments in response to Zika virus. The department will respond to any instance where there is concern over local transmission—this could include a confirmed human case of Zika, or high levels of mosquito activity.

Once health officials have determined a need for a response, mosquito control personnel will survey the affected area to eliminate potential breeding zones and determine if there is a need for further treatment. If there are enough adult mosquitoes present in the area, personnel will use backpack sprayers to apply Talstar P Professional—a bifenthrin-based adulticide—onto foliage where mosquitoes rest in order to control adult mosquito populations.

Routine Scheduled Mosquito Spray Program

In addition to its role in the state's Zika virus response, the department's Mosquito Control program will resume its regular activities; including arboviral surveillance and testing, mosquito population surveillance activities, source reduction, biological control initiatives, ground and aerial application of insecticides, and public education. The program will also resume its routine truck-based ULV fogging program in participating communities. Visit the [program's website](#) for more info.

As of May 24, there have been 198 cases of Zika virus in Maryland dating back to late 2015—all associated with travel to areas where the disease has been actively transmitted. The disease has not been transmitted by mosquitoes in Maryland; however, that may change as the *Aedes* mosquitoes become active in warmer weather, usually around the beginning of May. The best way to avoid the Zika virus is to prevent mosquito bites. *Aedes* mosquitoes breed in containers of any size that hold water. Regularly drain or eliminate containers of standing water around your home.

More information on Zika virus is available from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and [Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene](#).

For More Information

The Department of Agriculture has a **Zika Prevention [webpage](#)** (www.mda.maryland.gov/zika) that contains a variety of information related to mosquito control including prevention tips, frequently asked question and a series of short videos.

The Department also has a **Twitter** feed [@MdAgMosquito](#) that posts unscheduled spray events, including Zika response, and other timely information about mosquito control in Maryland.

Our notices of unscheduled spraying can be emailed directly to anyone who requests them by sending an email to: mda.news@maryland.gov. These notices are also posted on our [Mosquito Control webpage](#).

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