

PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ASIAN TIGER MOSQUITO

- The (female) mosquitoes bite people and animals (domestic and wild) to obtain blood meals which allow egg development to occur. They are active and bite during daylight hours, especially early morning and late afternoon. Being aggressive biters they will often bite the same person multiple times, especially if disturbed while in the process of feeding.
- Asian Tiger Mosquitoes can be vectors of many viral pathogens including those that cause yellow fever, dengue fever, Chikungunya, West Nile virus, equine encephalitis, Japanese encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis and La Crosse encephalitis. They may also transmit *Dirofilaria immitis*, the parasitic roundworm that causes heartworm in dogs and cats.
- They are difficult to control because their pattern of being active during the day makes trapping at night with attractive light unfeasible and mosquito-fogging treatments are often less effective than for other species due to atmospheric conditions during daylight hours.
- When introduced into a new area with other endemic mosquitoes (which may be easier to control or have less impact on humans) Asian Tiger Mosquito tends to outcompete the natives, and sometimes even eradicates them as the Asian Tiger Mosquito population grows.

PLEASE HELP TO KEEP THE ASIAN TIGER MOSQUITO FROM MOVING INTO/ESTABLISHING IN IDAHO

Watch for the mosquito (remember that it is active during daylight hours) and if you believe you've found it collect one or more specimens in a plastic container and get them to your local Extension Office or the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (2270 Old Penitentiary Road, Boise, ID 83712) to verify the identification.

Remove water-filled containers like old tires, food containers and buckets from your yard and work with your neighbors to eliminate other potential breeding sites that may exist.

Keep mosquitoes from breeding in bird baths, pet water dishes and plastic wading pools by emptying them at least once a week.

Roof gutters should be kept clean of fallen leaves and other debris so that water does not collect in them.

IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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BE ON THE WATCH

ASIAN



TIGER

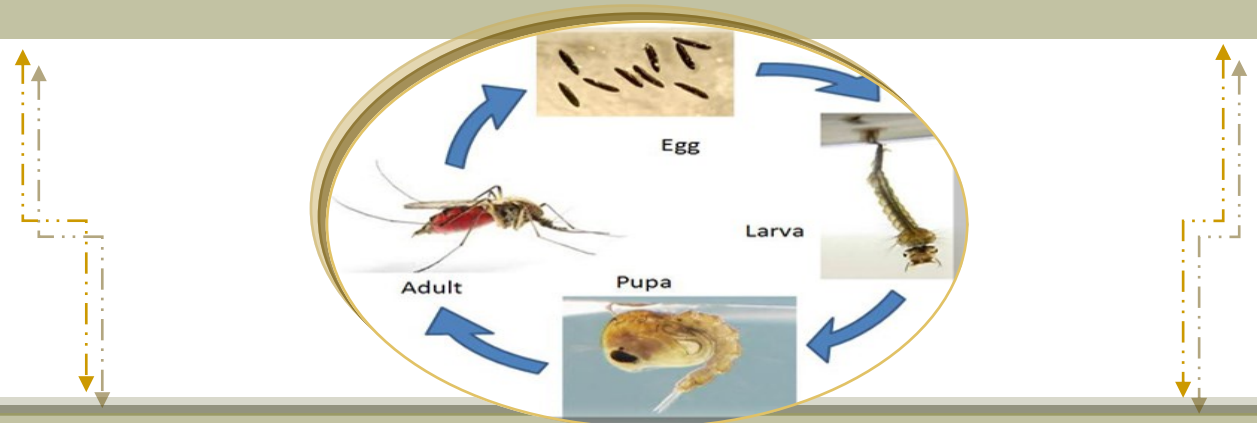
MOSQUITO

WORLDWIDE SPREAD OF THE ASIAN TIGER MOSQUITO

The Asian Tiger Mosquito (*Aedes albopictus* (Skuse)), originally found only in Southeast Asia, has greatly expanded its range over the past 35 years due primarily to the increased movement of people and commodities globally. It is now established in Europe, the United States, Mexico, South America, Africa and the Middle East.

In North America it was first found in Houston, Texas during 1985, having been transported there in used tires, which are imported in huge quantities from Japan. Having successfully entered the U.S. it quickly spread throughout the south and east, being found as far north as New England. In California a new infestation was discovered in 2001 – this one introduced with shipments of ornamental bamboo from South China. Rapid detection and control efforts resulted in an eradication program that appeared to be successful for over a decade, however, it was recently found again in 2013, in Los Angeles, and has since spread to several other CA counties.

THE LIFE CYCLE OF THE ASIAN TIGER MOSQUITO



EGGS

Small, black and oval. Laid singly on the sides of water-holding containers (either man-made, like bird baths or discarded containers or natural, like depressions in rock or holes in tree trunks). Eggs are placed just above the water surface where they remain and hatch when more water is added that raises the water level to submerge the eggs. They can survive desiccation for up to a year, and in cooler climates the winter is spent in the egg stage.

LARVAE

Are called “wrigglers” and move actively through the water feeding on fine particulate organic matter which is filtered out. They breathe through a tube at the end of the abdomen and must come to the surface periodically to do so. The larval stage lasts five to ten days.



PUPAE

Are called “tumblers” and are more compact (comma-shaped) than the larvae, but they also move about in the water. They do not feed and the adult mosquito emerges after only a few days.

ADULTS

Are 2-10 mm long and boldly marked in black and white. Some other mosquitoes have black and white bands on their legs, but only the Asian Tiger Mosquito has a black head and thorax with a distinctive solid white stripe running right down the center.

