

Mosquitoes and rain water

Understanding what happens to storm water as it percolates through our wetlands or collects in man-made containers is crucial to developing strategies to control mosquitoes. In general, if water is allowed to sit in shallow, stagnant pools longer than five days, and there are no fish present in the water, then mosquitoes will inevitably develop.



Take Action:

- ▶ **Rain barrels and rain gardens must be properly designed and maintained.** Rain barrels should be tightly covered with a screen no larger than 12 squares per linier inch. Soil and plantings in rain gardens should allow water to be completely absorbed in less than five days after significant rainfall.
- ▶ **Storm water retention ponds that are designed to hold water for long periods of time should be aerated or stocked with fish, and be relatively free of protective vegetation.** Mosquitoes like shallow, stagnant water that sits for more than five days.
- ▶ **Artificial containers – everything from small bird baths to large swimming pools – should be properly maintained and monitored.** Bird bath water should be changed on a regular basis. Swimming pools should be properly chlorinated. Old tires should be properly recycled. Debris around yards and neighborhoods should be properly discarded.
- ▶ **Larval mosquito control may be an option for those sites that cannot be redesigned or that change over time.** Call the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District at 651-645-9149 for more information on larval mosquito control options in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Will this wet area produce mosquitoes?

- ◆ How wet and for how long? That's the most important factor for mosquitoes!

Potential Mosquito Habitat



The Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD) provides a variety of services to 2.7 million people living in an area covering 2,800 square miles in the seven-county Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota metropolitan area.

Phone: 651-645-9149 www.mmcd.org

TTY use Minnesota Relay – Available in alternate formats

