



Mosquito Questions Answered

History:

The *Asian Tiger* mosquito was brought to the U.S. breeding in a load of used tires shipped from Japan in the 1980's. Once established in the U.S. the Asian Tiger quickly spread throughout the southeast and central states. It has become our most common pest mosquito species.

The *Asian Tiger* is not easily controlled. Spraying is ineffective as the adult mosquito hides under leaves where pesticide droplets can't reach her. Source reduction and larviciding are the only effective management tools. Mosquito dunks, or granules (available at hardware stores) placed in breeding places will kill the larva before they can become biting adults. Removing breeding opportunities is the best and least expensive method of control. She bites anytime, day or night and lays her eggs just above the waterline in artificial or natural containers. Eggs are not harmed by dry or cold weather and when wetted by rainfall will soon hatch. Even a teaspoon of water can harbor hundreds of larvae. Undergoing complete metamorphosis, the larvae have four instars then pupate before emerging as adults.

Description:

The *Asian Tiger* is about 1/8 inch in length. Its coloration is black with white banding on the legs and body. A distinct silver-white stripe runs down the Asian

Tiger's head and back. These unique patterns identify the Tiger from other species.

Disease Risk:

The *Asian Tiger* is shown in lab research to harbor many viruses & filaria (ie; canine heartworm). In the U.S. there is concern that the Asian Tiger will become competent of transmitting encephalitis and play a part in the importing of dengue fever.

How to Defeat the Asian Tiger:

The *Asian tiger* mosquito doesn't fly far from its breeding place. If adults are found, water-filled containers must be nearby. The best way to control this mosquito is Source Reduction: eliminate containers that hold water.

Suggestions:

- ♻️ Recycle, or throw away trash and unwanted items.
- ♻️ Clean clogged gutters to allow flow & drying.
- ♻️ Change water weekly & scrub outdoor containers, such as bird baths, pet bowls, and flower pot bases.
- ♻️ Empty and turn buckets or other containers upside down.
- ♻️ Empty tarpaulins or covers in which water accumulates.
- ♻️ Fill tree holes & fence posts
- ♻️ Talk to neighbors, get them involved in source reduction
- ♻️ Keep grass & underbrush trimmed
- ♻️ Repair window & door screens
- ♻️ Treat standing ponds & ditches with a bio-friendly larvicide.