

WE CAN HELP...

We use an

Integrated Pest

Management (IPM) System with several parts:

◆ Source Control...

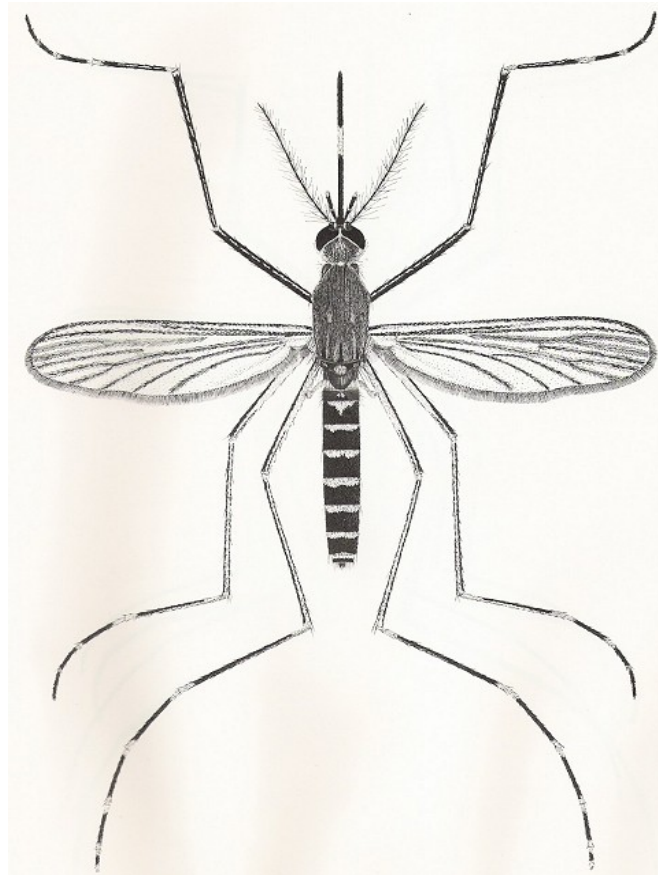
By working with you, we help eliminate bodies of standing water. If mosquitoes do not have a place to lay their eggs, fewer mosquitoes will hatch.

◆ Larviciding...

The best time to deal a fatal blow is in the larva stage when the insects are vulnerable to BTI a natural bacteria. Altocid, a larvacide that suffocates floating pupas and then biodegrades rather quickly can also be used.

◆ Adulticiding...

In certain situations, we have the ability to use a contract pesticide applicator to apply a "barrier" spray or use a technique known as "fogging" to control adult mosquitoes when they are most active. Due to budget considerations these techniques will only be used in areas of high use such as baseball and soccer fields. These methods may be used a few days before a high use event in an



Western Encephalitis Mosquito
(*Culex tarsalis*)

WEST NILE VIRUS AND YOUR HORSE

MALHEUR COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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What is West Nile Virus?

West Nile Virus is a flavivirus (a genus of Japanese Encephalitis) commonly found in Africa, West Asia and the Middle East. It is closely related to St. Louis Encephalitis Virus found in the U.S.

Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds, such as ravens and crows. After an incubation period of 5 to 15 days the mosquito can then transmit the virus to humans and animals, particularly horses, by biting them. Following this transmission, the virus multiplies in the blood stream. In severe cases the virus crosses the blood-brain barrier, reaching the brain and causing inflammation of the brain tissue. This inflammation interferes with the central nervous system.

Question & Answers About West Nile Virus & Horses

Q. How do horses become infected with West Nile Virus?

A. The same way humans become infected by the bite of infectious mosquitoes. The virus is located in the mosquito's salivary glands. When mosquitoes bite or "feed" on the horse, the virus is injected into its blood system. The virus then multiplies and may cause illness. The mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds or other animals.

Q. Can a horse infected with West Nile virus infect me or other horses?

A. No. There is no documented evidence that West Nile virus is transmitted from horse to man or horse to horse. However, horses with suspected West Nile virus should be isolated from mosquito bites, if at all possible.

Q. My horse is vaccinated against eastern equine encephalitis (EEE), western equine encephalitis (WEE), and Venezuelan equine encephalitis (VEE). Will these vaccines protect my horse against West Nile virus infection?

A. No. EEE, WEE, and VEE belong to another family of viruses for which there is no cross-protection.

Q. Can I vaccinate my horse against West Nile virus infection?

A. Yes. A West Nile Virus Vaccine for horses was recently approved. Horses need to be vaccinated twice 3-6 weeks apart with the second vaccination coming before March 1st.

Q. What is the treatment for a horse infected with West Nile virus? Should it be destroyed?

A. There is no reason to destroy a horse just because it has been infected with West Nile virus. Data suggest that most horses recover from the infection. Treatment would be supportive and consistent with standard veterinary prac-