

# MOSQUITO MANAGEMENT

STOP THE ITCH

REDUCE THE RISK

## MANAGING MOSQUITOES IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Mosquitoes are a fact of living in the wet and dry tropics of Queensland. It is important residents are familiar with how to manage mosquitoes around the home and how to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquito borne diseases such as Dengue Fever and Ross River Fever.

### Mosquitoes

Mosquitoes are not just a nuisance; they can transmit serious diseases. The Isaac region is home to many mosquito species, some can be found in and around your house and can cause diseases such as Ross River Virus, Barmah Forest Virus and possibly Dengue Fever.

### How you can protect yourself

There are a number of ways you can protect yourself and control mosquitoes around your home.

- Use insecticides (available at a hardware store) to control mosquitoes. Apply where mosquitoes rest (shaded areas, near dense vegetation and shrubs) a few hours before enjoying your yard to help in reducing mosquito numbers.
- Do not over irrigate
- Maintain drains and gutters around your home so that water can flow.
- Dispose of all containers which hold water.
- Screen all septic tank vents and seal all gaps.
- Empty pot plant drip trays once a week or fill them with sand.
- Drain depressions in the ground that hold water or fill holes with sand.
- Protect yourself with PPE like repellent and coils, and wear long-sleeved light-coloured clothing.

### FAST FACTS

- Mosquitoes have the ability to transmit heart worm lava to your dog.
- Mosquitoes can go from egg to adult in one week during typical summer conditions.
- Female mosquitoes are the ones that bite as they need blood to develop eggs.
- Only a handful of mosquito species occur in high enough numbers to cause problems for residents
- Not all mosquitoes bite humans. Some bite birds and other species bite reptiles
- Male mosquitoes feed on honeydew and nectar.
- Female mosquitoes can lay up to 200 eggs as a time.
- Mosquitoes find us by detecting warmth, moisture, carbon dioxide (exhaled air) and by sight at close distances.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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### Controlling mosquitoes in your yard

There are a number of insecticides that are available at a hardware store that can be used to control mosquitoes. Ask for recommendations from the store assistant and always check label instructions. Areas that can be treated are where mosquitoes rest such as shaded alcoves around buildings, underneath outdoor furniture, dense vegetation and shrubs. Applying insecticide a few hours before gardening or barbecues will help in reducing mosquito numbers. Wear recommended protective clothing and always follow instructions when spraying and handling insecticides.

### Potential mosquito breeding sites

Regularly checking your yard for, and disposing of, mosquito breeding sites is one of the most effective ways of reducing mosquito numbers around your home. Breeding sites can include water that is fresh, salt, clean or polluted water depending on the species.

Mosquitoes are bred in water; by checking the following hot spots around your home you could help reduce the possibility of breeding:

- Ponding water – Pools of still and shallow water attract mosquitoes wishing to breed. Fill these with soil or sand and plant over with grass or plants.
- Pot plant bases – The shallow warmed water that gathers in the base of pot plants is ideal for breeding and can support up to 150 mosquito larvae. Place sand in bases to absorb extra moisture and empty regularly ensuring to wipe out to remove eggs.
- Blocked roof guttering – Blocked and unmaintained guttering prevent rainwater escaping therefor producing a damp and warm environment for breeding. Check gutters regularly for leaves and other obstructions.
- Tyres – old tyres can hold water and provide a warm site for breeding. Disused tyres should be disposed of appropriately or stored undercover. Holes should be drilled into tyres being used as swings to allow water to drain

### STEPS TO TAKE

#### Tip It

Tip water from containers and objects around your home.

#### Store It

Store items out of the weather when not in use to avoid collection of water.

#### Throw It

Throw away items you no longer need or do not use.

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