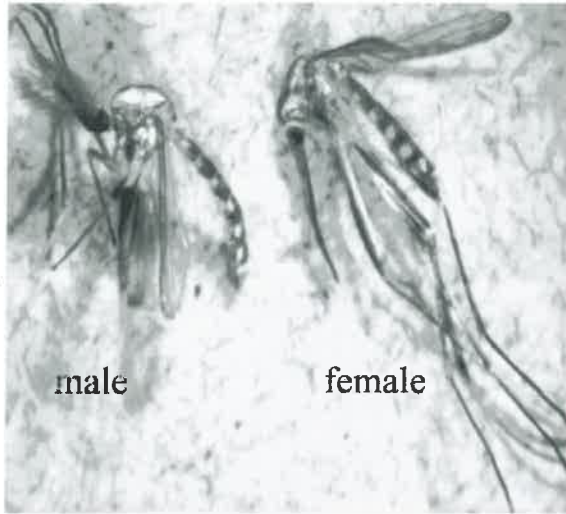


Adult LaCrosse mosquitoes



LaCrosse encephalitis virus can be transmitted during the bite of an infected female mosquito. Adult LaCrosse mosquitoes have silver scales on the sides of their bodies, and appear all black when viewed from above.

LaCrosse mosquitoes bite during the day in shady areas, and are more numerous in late July and August. If you are going to be in shady areas in mid to late summer MMCD recommends the following precautions, especially with children:

- ✓ Wear long sleeves and pants to reduce skin exposure
- ✓ Use repellents containing DEET, following label instructions
- ✓ Wear light colored clothes, preferably white, and avoid perfumes, colognes and hairsprays

Metropolitan Mosquito Control District
Metro Counties Government Center
2099 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55104-3431



TTY (800) 627-3529
AA/EO Employer
Available in Alternate formats

LaCrosse Encephalitis

Help control LaCrosse mosquitoes



When in doubt, dump it out!

Produced and distributed by:
Metropolitan Mosquito Control District
(651) 645-9149 Fax: (651) 645-3246
Internet: www.mmcd.org

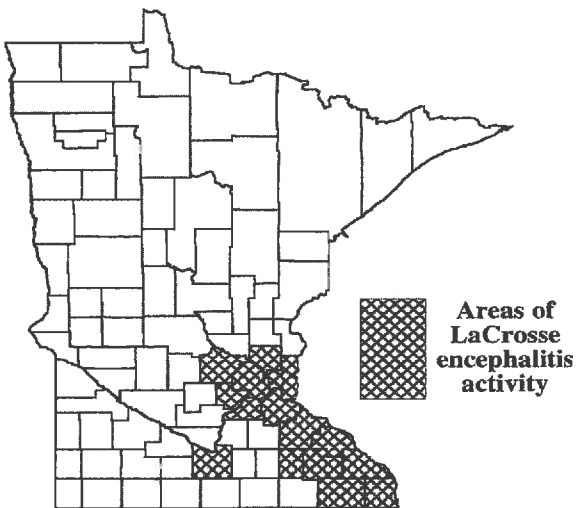
What is LaCrosse encephalitis ?

LaCrosse encephalitis is a potentially serious disease transmitted by mosquitoes that develop in old tires, artificial containers and areas in trees that hold water. LaCrosse mosquitoes are just one of 50 species found in Minnesota.

This viral disease is most often diagnosed in children under the age of 16. Adults can become infected, but in most cases symptoms are not severe. Symptoms include:

- ✓ Headache
- ✓ Stiff neck
- ✓ Convulsions
- ✓ Fever
- ✓ Nausea and vomiting
- ✓ Mental confusion

This disease may also cause permanent damage to the central nervous system, and in rare cases death.



Between three and twelve cases of LaCrosse encephalitis have been reported in Minnesota each year since 1985. Most cases are reported in August, when adult LaCrosse mosquitoes are at their peak.

Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD) needs your help controlling LaCrosse mosquitoes

To prevent immature mosquito development and reduce the risk of LaCrosse encephalitis, citizens should remove or empty anything that will hold water for over a week in the summer, especially if it's in the shade.



WHEN IN DOUBT, DUMP IT OUT!

LaCrosse mosquitoes seldom fly more than 100 yards from where they develop, and bite during the day. When you properly dispose of old tires, or empty the containers in which LaCrosse mosquitoes develop, you are protecting the children in your neighborhood from this potentially serious disease.

Treeholes

Areas in trees less than seven feet off the ground that hold water are the natural habitat for immature LaCrosse mosquitoes. Treeholes should be modified so they no longer hold water. Call MMCD for assistance (651) 645-9149.



LaCrosse encephalitis mosquito larvae

Immature mosquitoes develop in water. The *Aedes triseriatus*, or LaCrosse encephalitis mosquito larva, has round body parts making it look like a string of pearls.



Clean Up Your Yard And Neighborhood!



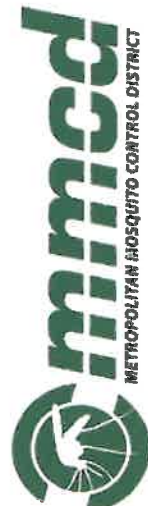
**Get Rid Of Water-
Holding Containers**

Fill Tree Holes



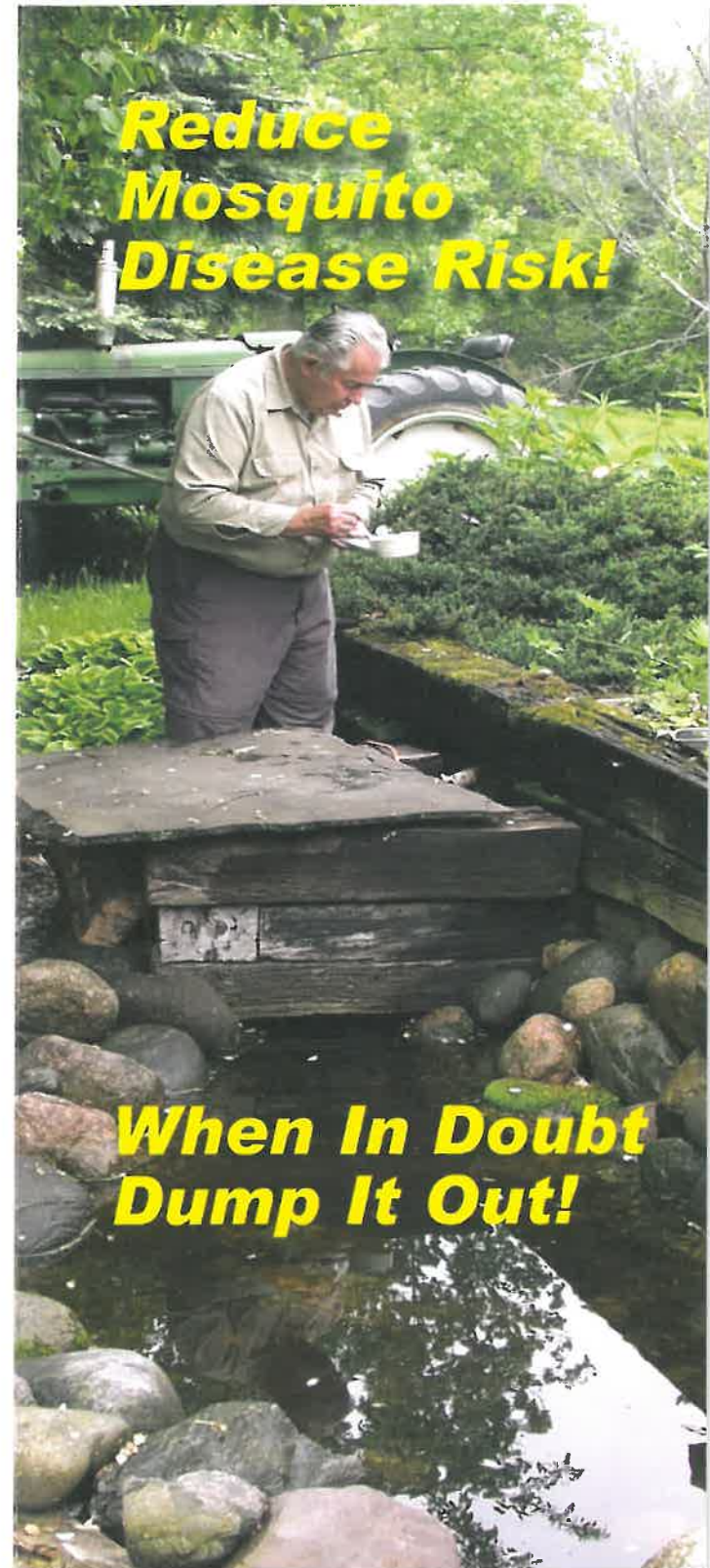
**Cover Rain
Barrels
with Tight
Screens**

**Call MMCD
To Recycle
Old Tires**



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**Reduce
Mosquito
Disease Risk!**

**When In Doubt
Dump It Out!**

“Fight The Bite”

Mosquito-borne virus can be transmitted during the bite of an infected female mosquito.

While most mosquitoes bite around sunset, some, including mosquitoes that transmit La Crosse encephalitis, bite during the day in shady areas. If you are going to be in shady areas in mid to late summer MMCD recommends the following precautions, especially with children and older adults:

- ✓ Wear long sleeves and pants to reduce skin exposure



- ✓ Use repellents containing DEET, follow label instructions
- ✓ Wear light colored clothes, preferably white, and avoid perfumes, colognes and hairsprays
- ✓ Limit outdoor activity when mosquitoes are most active



Most Mosquitoes Just Annoy Us...

Minnesota is home to 51 mosquito species. While many mosquitoes don't bite humans, all female mosquitoes need blood in order to produce eggs.

...But Some Can Make Us Sick!

Some mosquitoes bite birds or small rodents that carry viruses. Later, these same mosquitoes can bite again, spreading virus from one creature to another. In Minnesota, mosquitoes can spread West Nile virus, La Crosse encephalitis, Eastern equine encephalitis, Western equine encephalitis, and dog heartworm. While overall risk of mosquito-borne disease is low, taking simple precautions can reduce risk even further.

New Mosquito In Minnesota

Native to Japan and parts of east Asia, *Aedes japonicus*, the Japanese rock pool mosquito, recently has gained a foothold in Minnesota. This mosquito could spread La Crosse encephalitis and West Nile virus. You can help slow the spread of this exotic species by taking steps to eliminate its aquatic habitat.

Metropolitan Mosquito Control District Needs Your Help To Reduce Mosquitoes Around Your Property And Your Home

To prevent mosquito development and reduce the risk of La Crosse encephalitis and West Nile virus, you should remove or empty anything that will hold water for over a week in the summer, especially if it's in the shade.



If There's Water, They Will Come

Mosquitoes need stagnant water to develop from eggs to adults. Don't make it easy for them! Recycle used tires. Clean bird baths weekly. Clean gutters. Store boats so they drain completely. Keep tarps tight. Use screens on rain barrels. Replace water in stock tanks weekly, or use larval control. Keep water moving in water gardens or stock fish to eat mosquito larvae.

Remember:

When In Doubt, Dump It Out!