

HAMPTON VA

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Fred Gaskins | fgaskins@hampton.gov | 757-727-6191
22 Lincoln Street | Hampton, VA 23669

Residents urged to police their yards and homes for mosquito breeding areas

June 22, 2015 – Hampton’s Environmental Services Division wants residents to police their yards for standing rainwater to help reduce the area’s Asian Tiger mosquito population.

The Asian Tiger mosquito has been detected early this year, and with recent high temperatures and sporadic thunderstorms the mosquito population is growing fast.

The best way to combat the Asian Tiger mosquito is to survey your property weekly and dump all standing rainwater, eliminating potential breeding areas.

Check birdbaths, old tires, flower pot saucers, non-aerated ponds, roof gutters, landscape drainage pipe (corrugated pipe), tarps, buckets, toys, pet dishes, air conditioner condensation and any object capable of holding rainwater for more than a week. Even bottle caps can provide enough water for the Asian Tiger to breed, Environmental Services said.

Policing your yard and dumping containers is the best way to eliminate the problem, but if a container or area is too large or impractical you can put a bacterial larvicide in the water. Available at most hardware stores, these “dunks” or “pellets” are environmentally safe and effective in eliminating mosquito and fly larvae in standing water.

Bacterial larvicides are labeled safe for animal drinking water and are non-toxic to all birds and animals. Special needs residents can call 311 (757-8311 from your cell phone), and Environmental Services technicians will help with private yard inspections.

Because the Asian Tiger mosquito has become adept at feeding on and around people and their homes, the city’s nighttime insecticide spraying is not as effective as it could be, Environmental Services said. Unlike some other breeds, The Asian Tiger is active – and biting - during the day and at dusk and dawn.

Please, check your yard weekly and pass the word to your neighbors and friends in an effort to relieve the nuisance issues this mosquito presents.

You can go to www.hampton.gov/mosquitoes for more information about the Asian Tiger mosquito and Environmental Services.

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