

# MOSQUITO

**ORDER: DIPTERA**  
**FAMILY: CULICIDAE**

**ALIASES:**  
MIDGE, BLOODSUCKERS, ETC.

While primarily a nuisance, mosquitoes represent a serious public health threat because of their ability to transmit life-threatening diseases such as dengue, yellow fever, chikungunya and West Nile virus. According to the World Health Organization, there are more than one million deaths a year attributable to the diseases carried by mosquitoes. That makes them the deadliest animal on the planet. Not only can mosquitoes carry disease that afflicts humans, but they also transmit several diseases and parasites that dogs and horses are very susceptible to. To assist in the ongoing battle against this ubiquitous pest, MGK, manufacturer of a full line of mosquito control products, is pleased to present the following infographic on the biology, habits and life history of the mosquito.

WINGS COVERED WITH SCALES      TWO WINGS



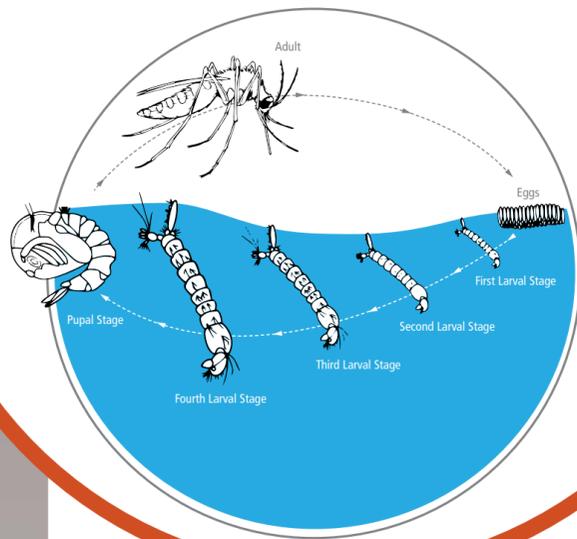
## DESCRIPTION

Mosquitoes are slender, long-legged insects that measure 1/8-inch (3.18 mm) to 1/4-inch (6.35 mm) long. Their hind wings are shrunken and modified into small, knobbed structures called halteres, which function as stabilizers during flight. Mosquitoes have scales or hairs on their wings, legs and other body parts. Their mouthparts consist of a pair of palpi (sensory organs) and a long proboscis that females use to pierce skin and to suck blood.



## LIFE CYCLE

Complete metamorphosis in four stages: egg, larva, pupa and adult. The entire lifecycle is completed in 7 days to several weeks depending on environmental conditions.



### FACT

The female mosquito lays 30-150 eggs every 2-3 days. Blood is needed to nourish these eggs.

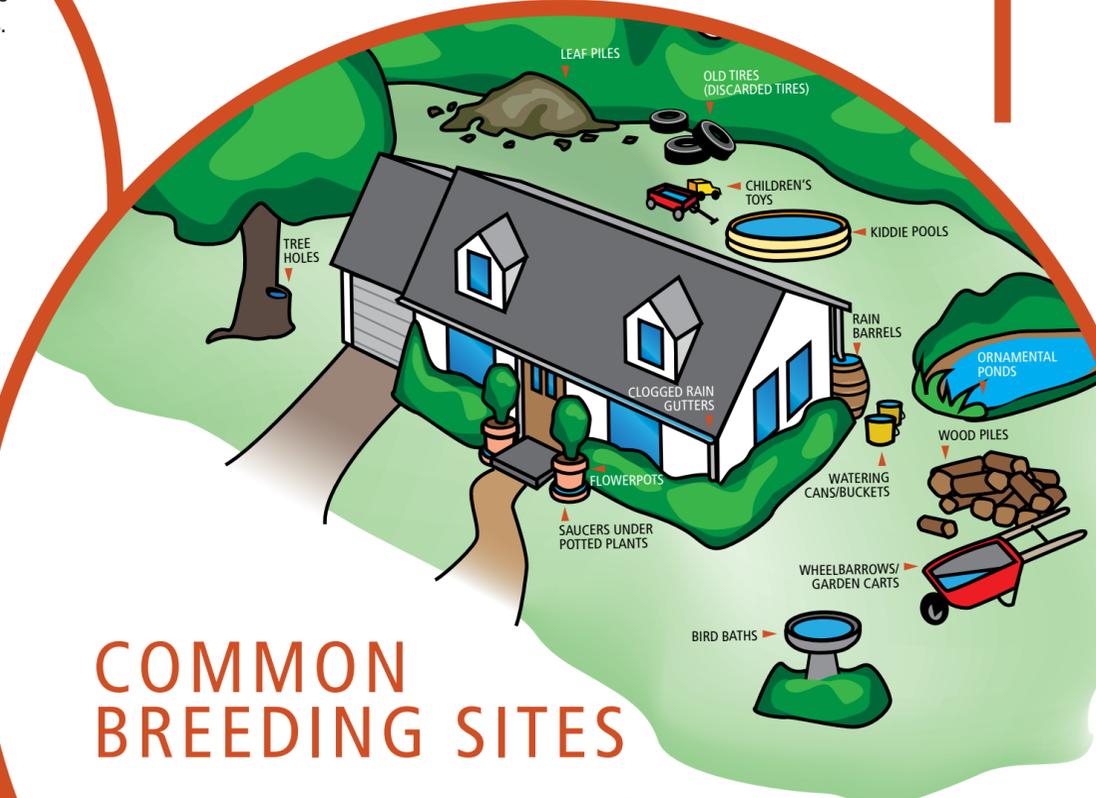


### FACT

The first three stages: eggs, larva and pupa are aquatic. Therefore, the best way to prevent mosquito breeding is to remove stagnant water.

## COMMON BREEDING SITES

- BIRD BATHS
- CLOGGED RAIN GUTTERS
- OLD TIRES (DISCARDED TIRES)
- KIDDIE POOLS
- FLOWERPOTS
- SAUCERS UNDER POTTED PLANTS
- WHEELBARROWS/GARDEN CARTS
- WATERING CANS/BUCKETS
- ORNAMENTAL PONDS
- WOOD PILES
- CHILDREN'S TOYS
- TREE HOLES
- RAIN BARRELS
- LEAF PILES



## CONTROL STRATEGIES

Successful mosquito control requires a multi-pronged strategy, including:

- SURVEILLANCE OF ADULTS AND LARVAL STAGES
- EXCLUSION
- SOURCE REDUCTION
- LARVICIDING/IGRS
- ADULTICIDING

When a mosquito bites, it injects saliva which contains an anesthetic and anticoagulant that prevents the blood from clotting in the puncture wound. These chemicals often produce an allergic response ranging from the typical small, red bump to much rarer episodes of severe systemic reactions.

