

REMINDER - MOSQUITO SEASON AGAIN

As residents spend more time outdoors, they must become more vigilant of protecting themselves from mosquito bites. Residents should also be reminded that our Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control & Wetlands Management District's operations are geared primarily towards "vector management"; i.e., our surveillance and control strategy is designed to identify, monitor, and control vectors of WNV and EEEV. They are not strictly a nuisance control or mosquito eradication outfit; if residents live next to huge tracts of freshwater wetlands or forest swamps that are releasing thousands of mosquitoes by the second, there is very little they can do about that! Therefore, the Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control & Wetlands Management District strongly encourages you to continue to follow the recommendations outlined below to reduce your risk to exposure to mosquitoes and the viruses they can transmit:

- 1) WNV-carrier mosquito species are most active in late afternoons through the middle of the evening. If you are outdoors during this period, protect yourselves from potential mosquito bites. Apply insect repellents containing DEET to yourselves and your children; DEET is the only repellent that has been scientifically shown to be most effective in keeping mosquitoes away from you. However, it doesn't keep every single mosquito away and it must be repeatedly applied if you spend long periods of time outdoors. Follow **FAITHFULLY** the manufacturer's recommendations. If you do not want to use repellent, then keep your skin covered as much as possible while you are out. For more information on mosquito repellents, it is recommended you consult the Centers for Disease Control website (www.cdc.gov), enter "Mosquito Repellent" in the "Search box" and follow the links or you can click on the accompanying web address link (www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/mosquitorepellent.htm).
- 2) Periodically inspect your property for any structures that are holding water. These include containers, but also inspect uncovered garbage barrels, swimming pool covers, and discarded tires. An area NEVER inspected and a great breeding site is your rain gutter which when filled with leaves not only holds back water but becomes a wonderful nursery for raising mosquitoes. Check and clean those gutters on a regular basis. Also, place screens (and check for gaps!) on your windows and doors to keep mosquitoes from entering your homes. For more information about searching your property for mosquito breeding, check the New York State Department of Health website for the fact sheet entitled "Do Mosquitoes Love Your Home and Yard?" (www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/westnile/education/2747.htm)
- 3) If you live next door to abandoned property (especially if there is an unused swimming pool) that you suspect may be a source of mosquitoes, contact Lynn's Board of Health at 781-598-4000. They will contact the District and inspectors will be sent to see and deal with any potential/actual breeding.
- 4) Residents can also contact the Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control & Wetlands Management or the Lynn Board of Health and request spraying in their area.

Coquillettidia perturbans



(<http://bugguide.net>; Photo#26972)



Aedes japonicus