

Model Ecological Mosquito Management Policy and Plan for Communities

Adulticide Option

Section 4: Surveillance

Establishes a framework for monitoring larval and adult mosquitoes, as well as the factors that affect their population size. Requires adult mosquitoes be trapped and tested for communicable diseases at set times during the year, with data made available to the public. Provides option to employ state monitoring data, rather than establish community-based program. Otherwise, tasks the community with the creation of a map of larval mosquito breeding sites that are further classified by the quality of their ecological habitat and mosquito breeding history. Employs a wetland and/or wildlife ecologist to conduct an ecological analysis at mosquito breeding sites in order to further develop non-chemical approaches to reducing mosquito populations.

Section 5: Education, Outreach, and Prevention

Creates a public education and outreach campaign aimed at developing community capacity to reduce mosquito breeding. The campaign aims to inform residents and businesses how to reduce mosquito breeding, and take personal protective measures. It will also provide residents information on the hazards of mosquito pesticides and how they may opt-out of adulticide applications. Suggests a range of outreach methods, and establishes a hotline for residents to call with questions about mosquito-related concerns. Outlines the content of a “mosquito protection toolkit” that can be distributed at educational events, sent to residents that call the hotline, or by request.

Section 6: Mitigation Measures

Establishes a tiered process to mitigate mosquito populations, with a focus on source reduction through habitat manipulation, and the use of least-toxic larvicides. Habitat manipulation is to include water management strategies to eliminate artificially created mosquito breeding areas. Such activities include but are not limited to removal of tires and other trash or old structures, improving drainage, removing water from old swimming pools or other artificial puddles of water, and enhancing habitat by improving access to streams and wetland for fish and other mosquito predators. Larvicides are to be applied based upon thresholds established from the monitoring of breeding sites, and aerial larvicide applications are prohibited. Adulticide use is prohibited for the management of nuisance mosquitoes. The community sets thresholds for adulticide use based solely upon threats to public health. Following detection of a mosquito-borne disease, the community is to increase monitoring and non-pesticidal management efforts. Limited use of least-toxic adulticides is to occur only if pre-established thresholds are met. Truck-mounted spraying is permitted only after all other options have been attempted and deemed insufficient. Increased monitoring is to occur after any adulticide spray. Aerial adulticiding is prohibited.

Section 7: Community Mosquito Task Force

Establishes a task force of community residents to assist in the implementation of the policy. The task force acts in an advisory capacity, suggesting potential changes to the mosquito abatement program, assisting the public education and outreach, and responding to resident comments on mosquito management. The task force is provided notification of a planned adulticide application prior to the

community at large, and permitted to call an emergency meeting to review the need for an application, and make a vote to disapprove the application.

Section 8:

Establishes a public notification process prior to the community's use of adulticides. Broad notice is provided to residents through public sources such as the internet and newspapers, and additional educational information on personal protection is provided to residents within ½ mile of any planned spray.

Section 9: Opt-Out

Creates a "no spray list," providing an opportunity for residents to opt out of adulticide spraying. Automatically places state-registered beekeepers and organic farms within the community on the "no spray list." All residents on the "no spray list" shall not have an adulticide sprayed within 300 feet of their property line, and shall be provided reminder each year by the community that they remain on the no spray list.

Section 10: Reporting and Evaluation

Requires the enacting agency or board, community mosquito task force, wetland and/or wildlife ecologist, and any other relevant experts publish yearly findings on the successes and failures of the community's mosquito management approach over the past year. Aims to develop additional methods of managing mosquitoes naturally, without chemical inputs. Makes this report available to the public.