Vector Control in Your Community

Pests that spread disease are known as disease "vectors". Vector control via public applications helps to reduce pest numbers and the risk of being infected.

Community agencies that control these pests weigh the risk of human disease against the risks from pest control. They **monitor** outbreaks, provide control tips and **educate** the public, and may **apply** pesticides. Pesticides may be applied by hand, by plane, or by trucks.

Major disease vectors

Tick

Lyme disease, Tick enchephalitis

Mosquito

Malaria, Dengue, Chikungunya, Zika, Yellow fever, West Nile

Other potential vectors

Blackfly

Kissing Bug

Mouse/Rat

Sandfly

What types of pesticides are used?

Larvicides prevent young from turning into adults

Types include bacteria, Insect Growth Regulators, mineral oils, and other films

Adulticides kill insects on contact

Vector control districts may use foggers or Ultra Low Volume (ULV) sprays

What can I expect to happen?

Ultra Low Volume (ULV) sprays use a small amount of tiny droplets over a large area.

Usually less than 3 ounces per acre, or about 8 tablespoons over the size of a football field

Some upcoming aerial applications may require notification

Aerial applications usually occur near dawn or dusk, when fewer people are outside

What precautions can I take?

Consider removing toys and pet bowls and covering outdoor furniture and edible plants, bird feeders and baths

Stay inside during and shortly after the application, close doors and windows and turn off air systems

Why spray large areas?

Many places can be breeding grounds or hiding spots for mosquitoes and other vectors. It's hard to find these all on foot. Planes can spray areas that trucks can't reach and can be more effective.

Where can I get more information?

npic NATIONAL PESTICIDE INFORMATION CENTER

800-858-7378

Health Department

Vector Control

npic.orst.edu/pest/vector_agencies.html
npic.orst.edu/shemlr.html