



Cape May Point Environmental Commission

MOSQUITO CONTROL

The Cape May Point Environmental Commission would once again like to share useful information on the topic of mosquito control, primarily from “Nature’s Best Hope”, an excellent book written by the bestselling author Doug Tallamy. Dr. Tallamy is a respected professor at the University of Delaware, an entomologist, ecologist, and conservationist.

The Environmental Commission asks you to keep in mind that common biting mosquitoes in most areas are not strong fliers and breed very close to where they're biting. (Think: within 200 to 300 feet.) In other words, you can keep your mosquito-prevention methods to controlled, especially problematic areas by following the guidelines below.

WHAT SHOULD YOU AVOID:

Commercial mosquito control: According to Tallamy, “Contrary to what the fogger operator may have told you, the pyrethroid-based insecticides used by mosquito floggers indiscriminately kill all insects, not just mosquitoes.” For this reason, Cape May Point residents are strongly encouraged to avoid hiring commercial mosquito control providers.

Pools of stagnant water: Standing water with decaying organic matter like leaves, soil, or grass clippings is the perfect breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Adult mosquitoes lay their eggs on or near water, and the larvae develop in the water, feeding on organic matter until they’re mature enough to leave the water to bite.

Buckets, flower pot saucers, tarps, wheelbarrows, tires, clogged gutters, and stagnant birdbaths: These the most common culprits for mosquito breeding when the water is not refreshed regularly. Draining, dumping, or filling in these sites regularly is the easiest way to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds. We also strongly recommend using Mosquito Dunks, which are environmentally friendly and won’t harm other beneficial pollinators or wildlife.

WHAT DOESN’T WORK:

Mosquito traps: Mosquito traps often attract mosquitoes using human scent (lactic acid, ammonia, or carboxylic acids). While good in theory, their effectiveness varies greatly depending on wind, airflow patterns, and mosquito species in your area, plus they tend to be expensive.

Bug zappers: These use ultraviolet light sources to attract mosquitoes to an electrocuting grid. Unfortunately, these traps attract and kill many beneficial insects and do not control the females of most mosquito species very well.