

Cape May Point Environmental Commission: Mosquito Control



The Cape May Point Environmental Commission would like pass along useful information on the topic of mosquito control. Most of it comes directly from Nature's Best Hope, the newest book written by the bestselling author Doug Tallamy. Dr. Tallamy is a respected professor at the University of Delaware, an entomologist, ecologist, and conservationist.

Dr. Tallamy writes about commercial mosquito control saying, **“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 an alternate and environmentally-friendly method to control mosquitoes in your yard, he suggests: “Put a five-gallon bucket of water in a sunny place in your yard and add a handful of hay or straw. After a few days, the resulting brew is irresistible to gravid (egg-filled) female mosquitos. After the mosquitos have laid their eggs, add a commercially available mosquito dunk tablet that contains *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), a natural larvicide, to your bucket. The eggs will hatch, and the larvae will die. This way, you control mosquitos, and only mosquitos, without the use of harmful insecticides.”

In addition to using the “bucket approach”, **it is essential that you also eliminate any unused, standing water on your property**, such as empty buckets and overturned trash can lids. For standing water used for a specific purpose, such as bird baths and rain barrels, the EC supports the use of Mosquito Dunks. The dunks contain a natural larvicide that kills mosquito larvae for 30 days, but the product is safe for birds and insects. Simply drop the dunk into the standing water.

To dive more deeply into Dr. Tallamy’s work, here’s a link to a detailed presentation: A Presentation by Doug Tallamy – Nature’s Best Hope:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WY4aV5hqkxY>