

Hello IPM in Schools folks,

Monthly IPM update here for Arizona districts.

Dawn & I attended the **Department of Health Services' "Joint Vector-Borne/Zoonotic Diseases Conference** this week and wanted to share with you the basics on the status of West Nile Virus in Arizona. DHS recapped West Nile Virus 2004 epidemic: Arizona human cases for 2004 were 391, 15 of those resulted in death. It is estimated by scientists that as many as four thousand WNV cases went unreported in our state. Many of these cases were more likely those folks who did not develop West Nile Fever (recall that research shows 80% of folks with West Nile virus will not develop the fever and are overall asymptomatic; 20% with WNV will develop the fever; and 1 % with WNV develop meningitis, encephalitis, or paralytic syndromes). Additionally, it is suspected that if 2004 had been a normal monsoon season - in terms of precipitation - the number of WNV cases would more than likely have been even higher. A few more tidbits:

In Maricopa County, mosquito infection rates were found to be as high as 20/100 in some cases– that's 20% of mosquitoes infected with WNV!

An estimate 99% of Arizonans are susceptible to WNV in 2005, so by no means assume most people have already been exposed and are immune

Low #s mosquitoes caught in traps does NOT equate to a low risk. DHS traps were catching 4-5 mosquitoes per night.... 2004 didn't produce huge numbers of mosquitoes, just high rates of infected mosquitoes

DHS has already begun their mosquito trapping/testing season (March 1<sup>st</sup>), since last year WNV cases began earlier than anyone expected.

No "predictions" for 2005, as Arizona repeatedly defies predictions on WNV. However, DHS and Maricopa County Vector Control are urging everyone to be aware of mosquito breeding habitat given our wet year so far and the early start of mosquito season. Maricopa County Vector Control indicated the significant role abandoned and neglected swimming pools play in serving as mosquito breeding habitat – the data presented on this by John Townsend, Vector Control Program Manager, was astounding. Please keep an eye out for discolored swimming pools and report them to Maricopa County Environmental Services, Vector Control folks.

IF YOUR DISTRICT DOES NOT HAVE A POLICY ON WEST NILE VIRUS, YOU MIGHT THINK ABOUT DRAWING ONE UP. JENNIFER AND DAWN HAVE EXAMPLES.  
AN OFFICIAL DISTRICT STATEMENT ON WNV - FOR PARENTS, PRESS, STAFF, ETC. - MAY COME IN HANDY.

### Availability of Mosquito Traps & Testing.

We have several traps we are happy to loan out to folks for conducting mosquito monitoring in your school district. Testing mosquito samples for viruses requires 5 mosquitoes delivered to us

alive (so the day you collect your trap). Please read the notes below & let us know if you're interested in trapping and testing.

Just so we're all on the same page, the resources we (Dawn & Jen) can provide include:

1. Loaning out CO<sub>2</sub> mosquito trap(s), with a visit to explain instructions on placement & checking
2. Mosquito ID (at Maricopa Ag. Center), and identification keys/information for those interested in doing their own ID
3. Recommendations for mosquito abatement based upon trap results (e.g. gender, species, and total number)
4. VecTesting samples for the presence of : West Nile Virus, St. Louis Encephalitis, and Western Equine Encephalitis

What school folks (IPM Specialist or designated other) should be prepared to do:

1. Set mosquito trap(s) between 4:30 pm and 6 pm of your chosen day.
2. Check the trap the following morning no later than 8 am.
3. **Coordinate with Dawn or Jennifer for dropping your sample off** if you would like it identified and tested
4. Bring your samples to the Maricopa Ag. Center.
5. For conducting a VecTest we need five or more live mosquitoes; please don't freeze the sample (or allow it to bake in the sun). Fresh, fresh, fresh.

If you're interested in trapping and testing please let us know as soon as possible. Virus testing supplies are limited and expensive (and have a short shelf life); **testing is something we would like to offer, and we will invest in these supplies if folks are interested.** We need to order the testing kit as yet, so please let us know asap. Thanks everyone!!

~Dawn & Jennifer

Jennifer Snyder, Research Specialist  
University of Arizona MAC Experiment Station

37860 W. Smith-Enke Rd.  
Maricopa, AZ 85239  
(520) 568-2273 ext. 266