

Quick October update for you all on the current status of West Nile Virus:

Of significance - we have hit the 100 mark for the number of human cases reported this year in Arizona. And we are still receiving a few new case reports each week.

*-----

Nationally, 2,435 human cases have been reported in 42 states in 2005, which is higher than the national number of cases reported last year.

Currently, Arizona ranks sixth in the Nation with regards to the number of WNV cases. Last year at this time Arizona ranked #1.

The highest numbers are being reported in CA (780+), IL (233), SD (230), TX (117), LA (111), and AZ (100).

Keep in mind we live in a desert, so most of our mosquito breeding habitat is created by humans... and yet we rank 6th in the nation for WNV human cases.

Why? Part of this high ranking is due obviously to the number of mosquitoes (due to habitat, due to us), and part of it is due to our very efficient vector species: *Culex tarsalis*. Turn around time from egg to reproductive (feeding) adult can be as little as FOUR days under ideal conditions for this mosquito, and such conditions exist here in Arizona. Add to that our mild winters, warm springs, and long summers and the result is a need for education year round to reduce habitat for this pest.

A monthly IPM in schools update and more information on the IPM in Schools Coalition's Annual Workshop (Dec. 7 & 8) will be out next week.

Thanks all!

Dawn & Jennifer

Jennifer L. Snyder
University of Arizona
Maricopa Agricultural Center
37860 W. Smith-enke Rd.
Maricopa, AZ 85239
(520) 568-2273, ext. 266

