

METRO VANCOUVER NUISANCE MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM

Culex Environmental Ltd has been contracted by Metro Vancouver to undertake nuisance mosquito control in the Township of Langley, City of Surrey, City of Pitt Meadows, and the District of Maple Ridge.

The program includes:

1. Monitoring river levels, temperature, rainfall, and snow pack levels
2. Monitoring numbers of larval mosquitoes in water bodies
3. Applying naturally occurring bacterial larvicide
4. Monitoring numbers of adult mosquitoes to gauge effectiveness of larviciding
5. Public education and community outreach

Larval mosquito monitoring:

Potential larval mosquito development sites are visited at least once every seven days from May through June to determine if any pesticide application is required. This process includes counting a sample of larval mosquitoes in the water body to determine when and how severe the hatch of adult mosquitoes will be.

Controlling mosquito numbers with larvicide:

During larval mosquito monitoring, if the number of mosquito larvae counted in the sample exceeds predetermined threshold levels, a naturally occurring larvicide, Bti, is immediately applied to the water by hand, or by helicopter over large areas. Bti is non-toxic, persists in the environment for only a few days, and specifically targets mosquito larvae. Mosquito larvae ingest the bacteria with their food and die within a few hours. This is the most effective method to control the numbers of adult mosquitoes.

Monitoring effectiveness:

To make sure the program is operating effectively, locations where larvicide has been applied is revisited and larval numbers are re-counted. Larvicide is re-applied as required. Also, traps are set to catch adult mosquitoes, which are counted to monitor effectiveness.

Public education and community outreach

Culex Environmental operates a Mosquito Hotline (1-604-872-1912). Residents of Langley, Surrey, Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows can call to ask questions or to get more information about the program or about mosquitoes in general. The phone line is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and Culex responds to all inquiries within 24 hours of receiving messages. Culex will also be attending events in the community to talk about the program and answer questions.

Protect yourself:

- Mosquitoes are most active between dusk and dawn. If you are outside in the evening or early morning, minimize your exposure to bites.
- Wear long sleeved shirts and long pants.
- Wear light-coloured clothing. Mosquitoes are attracted to dark, intense colours. By wearing light-coloured clothing you will reduce the likelihood of getting bitten.
- Wear clothing made of tightly woven materials that will keep mosquitoes away from the skin. The use of mesh "bug jackets" or "bug hats" is also recommended.
- Tuck pants into socks and button shirt cuffs for extra protection.
- Use mosquito netting to protect infants, when in an unscreened structure, or when sleeping outdoors.
- In addition to wearing proper clothing, consider using an insect repellent containing DEET or other approved ingredients.

