



nhulunbuy corporation

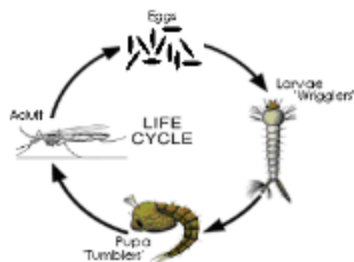
Mosquito Matters

Mosquitos are native insects which breed in salt, brackish or fresh water and have been identified as being a major and significant threat to both human health and lifestyle throughout the world. This has become predominant in Australia as a result of the climate and the great outdoors that many Australians love. More than 220 mosquito species can be found in Northern Australia and a substantial number of these have been implicated as vectors of some human diseases, including Ross River Fever, Barmah Forest Virus, Dengue Fever and Malaria.

Mosquitoes require water in which to breed. Females lay eggs on the surface of the water or the water's edge. The eggs hatch into larvae which live under the surface of still water and breathe air through the surface. The larvae go through four stages before becoming pupae which again live under water, emerging from the water soon after as an adult.

Life cycle

In Nhulunbuy, this cycle can be completed in 7-10 days. Unlike the cooler southern areas, Nhulunbuy climate provides ideal breeding conditions all year round. Mosquitoes breed in many fresh and salt water areas around the home and in natural low-lying areas and water courses.



I have noticed a lot of mosquitoes around my house – what can I do?

You can help minimise mosquito populations by taking some of these simple steps to reduce breeding in your house and garden:

- ❖ **Empty** standing water out of old tyres, buckets, plastic covers, toys, pet drinking bowls, bird baths, pot plant trays or any other container where larvae or pupae live in the house or garden
- ❖ **Drill holes** in tyres used for swings and garden surrounds to allow water to drain from them
- ❖ **Drain or fill** temporary pools and tree hollows with dirt or sand
- ❖ **Keep swimming pools treated and circulating**
- ❖ **Keep rain gutters unclogged**
- ❖ **Avoid using water retaining plants** such as bromeliads in your garden. Where these are present, use a high pressure spray to kill larvae
- ❖ **Clear out any palm fronds and other vegetation** from your garden
- ❖ **Boats and dinghies** should be overturned or have the drain plug removed
- ❖ **Screen all openings** to tanks, wells or other large water containers with wire gauze no coarser than 1mm mesh. This prevents mosquitoes from laying eggs
- ❖ **Cap brick walls** made of cavity bricks to prevent water from pooling in the walls
- ❖ **Create a good buffer zone** between your house and any surrounding thick vegetation to avoid breeding sites. Ensure your lawn is cut regularly

If you are experiencing large numbers of mosquitoes in your area, contact the Nhulunbuy Corporation. We will send out a specifically trained officer to assess the situation and determine if further action is required.



nhulunbuy corporation

Mosquito Matters

What can I do to protect myself and my family from mosquitoes?

- ❖ Make sure window and door screens are **bug tight**
- ❖ Replace your outdoor lights with **yellow bug lights**
- ❖ **Avoid watering** your garden around **sunset**. This is the time that mosquitoes are most active and will be attracted to humid areas
- ❖ **Use a fan** as this discourages mosquitoes from landing and biting
- ❖ Use **mosquito repellents** when necessary and follow label directions and precautions closely
- ❖ Where appropriate, try to wear **long sleeves and long pants, light coloured and loose fitting clothes**, especially around sunset

Repelling mosquitoes naturally

Some plants and herbs that grow in many gardens have the potential to repel mosquitoes, including:

- ❖ Basil, Marigold, Pennyroyal and Rue – planted in pots near doorways and windows. Leaves can also be rubbed onto the skin
- ❖ Mint, Lavender, Onion and Garlic – used in spray from equal parts soaked in water for 24 hours
- ❖ Pelargonium Citrosa (citrus geranium) – offers localised protection by releasing a citronella scent

I have concerns about mosquito control chemicals – what can I do?

Contact the Nhulunbuy Corporation who can answer your questions. If you do not want chemicals used near your home, the Nhulunbuy Corporation will record your details in a register and will advise our Vector Control Team not to spray near your home.

For any further enquiries, please contact the Nhulunbuy Corporation on 8939 2200 or via email office@ncl.net.au.

Please note suspected Dengue Fever should be reported to the Nhulunbuy Corporation or the NT Department of Health immediately.

