

Mosquito Myths

Because of their ubiquity, there are many misconceptions about mosquitoes some of the more common ones include:

- Bug zappers are effective against mosquitoes - bug zappers do not control mosquitoes and can reduce the populations of beneficial insects.
- Electronic repellents keep mosquitoes away - No they don't; save your money.
- Residential vegetation can produce mosquitoes - They may be resting in the vegetation, but standing water is required to "produce" mosquitoes.
- Bats, owls, and other birds can control mosquitoes - Although they may include mosquitoes in their diet, they do not consume enough mosquitoes to make an appreciable difference in their populations.
- Some mosquitoes can be 2 inches long. - They don't get that big, it was probably a crane fly.
- Mosquitoes nest in vegetation - Mosquitoes do not nest.
- Spraying for adults is the best method of mosquito control - Adulticiding is the least efficient method. Eliminating mosquitoes before they become adults is preferable. Most sprays only work if you hit the insect directly.
- Mosquitoes can transmit AIDS - False
- The Citrosa plant repels mosquitoes - Although citrosa oil (citronella) has been used widely as a mosquito repellent, the undisturbed plant itself does not release these oils and is thus not effective as a repellent.