



NUISANCE MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM IN THE SOUTH OKANAGAN AND SIMILKAMEEN BEGINS EARLY

RDOS Helps Reduce the Mosquito Population

Since 1974, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) Nuisance Mosquito Control Program usually begins in mid-May and continues into late August. Each week, the RDOS Mosquito Control Crew tests standing water at identified sites for the presence of mosquito larvae. If the site requires treatment, a granular bacterial larvicide is applied to the water. This natural bacteria kills mosquito and biting black fly at their larval stage but does not kill adult mosquitoes. The product has been found to not harm any other insects, amphibians, reptiles, fish, birds or mammals.

Due to the warm weather, early spring melt, and increased mosquito complaints the RDOS has launched the program earlier this year. If you reside in the RDOS Electoral Areas or municipalities listed below, and have areas of standing water bodies too large to drain on your own, call: RDOS Mosquito Control Program at 1-877-610-3737 x 4142 or 250-490-4142.

Program coverage:

Electoral Areas "A","B", "C", "D", "F", "G", and "H" as well as the City of Penticton, District of Summerland, and Towns of Oliver and Osoyoos.

Protect Yourself

At your home be sure to mend screens and reduce sources of standing water on your property. Clean

and unclog eaves-troughs and gutters and remove water from any depressions on your roof or driveway. Refresh pet dishes and bird-baths daily. Remove any standing water from items such as tires, pails, tarps, boats, hot-tub and pool covers.

Look around your property for anything that can hold water (for 72 hours or more) as it will provide an excellent habitat for mosquitoes. Yard items such as storm water catch basins, ephemeral ponds, standing water in tires, plant pots, small troughs, pool covers, rain barrels, tarps, rain barrels and wading pools are all places that can harbour breeding mosquitos.

Zika Virus Concerns

At this time, the Zika Virus carrying mosquito cannot survive in Canada, and concerns about transmission are focused on Canadians that have travelled to countries affected and human to human transfer. However, the National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg has already begun research to determine if it is at all possible that North American insects could become infected with Zika and potentially transmit the virus.

For more information on nuisance mosquitos visit: <http://www.rdos.bc.ca/departments/public-works/pest-control/>

For further information, contact Public Works Projects Coordinator, Zoë Kirk at (250) 490-4110 or toll free 1-877-610-3737 or by email: zkirk@rdos.bc.ca

NOXIOUS OR DESTRUCTIVE INSECTS AND RELATED PESTS

- Codling moth
Cydia pomonella
- Western cherry fruit fly
Rhagoletis indifferens
- Black cherry fruit fly
Rhagoletis fausta
- San Jose scale
Quadraspidiotus perniciosus
- European fruit scale
Quadraspidiotus ostreaeformis
- Peach Twig Borer
Anarsia lineatella
- Peach Tree Borer
Synanthedon exitiosa
- Pear psylla
Cacopsylla pyricola Foerster
- Fruittree leafroller
Archips argyrospilus
- European leafroller
Archips rosanus
- Obliquebanded leafroller
Choristoneura rosaceana
- Threelined leafroller
Pandemis limitata
- Apple-and-thorn skeletonizer
Choreutis pariana
- Apple mealybug
Phenacoccus aceris
- Apple ermine moth
Yponomeuta malinella
- Gypsy moth
Lymantria dispar
- Apple maggot
Rhagoletis pomonella
- Oriental fruit moth
Grapholitha molesta
- Cherry bark tortrix
Enarmonia formosana
- Cherry ermine moth
Yponomeuta padellus
- Eyespotted budmoth
Spilonota ocellata
- Spotted Wing Drosophila
Drosophila suzukii
- Apple Clear Wing Moth
Synanthedon myopaeformis



FRUIT BEARING TREES AND SHRUBS NEED REGULAR INSPECTION

To protect the commercial fruit industry in the South Okanagan and Similkameen, the RDOS has had bylaws in place since 2001 that ensure better control of fruit tree pests in Electoral Areas "A","B", "C", "D", "F", "G" and the Town of Oliver. The bylaw has recently been updated to include new species and emerging threats. All residents and property owners in the RDOS should refer to Bylaw 2711, 2015. The species included under this bylaw are listed on the Noxious or Destructive Insects and Related Pests list. The bylaw and related information on mitigation can be obtained at the RDOS office or online: <http://www.rdos.bc.ca/departments/public-works/pest-control/tree-fruit-pest-control/>

All owners of fruit bearing trees or shrubs are responsible for controlling insect pests on their properties to prevent them from severely affecting nearby neighbours and professional growers. Two of the most common and destructive pests are the Spotted Wing Drosophila which infects all soft fruits and berries including blueberries, raspberries, apricots and peaches and the

Western Cherry Fruit Fly.

Acceptable pest control methods are available on the Ministry of Agriculture website: **Western Cherry Fruit Fly** <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/tfipm/fruitfly.htm> and **Spotted Wing Drosophila** <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/swd.htm>

Because of the prevalence and very serious economic impact of noxious fruit tree/shrub pests, the RDOS asks that all property owners regularly inspect their trees and shrubs, take precautionary measures and familiarize themselves with the signs of infestation.

The RDOS responds to complaints concerning fruit bearing trees that are not being properly cared for, or are infected.

For further information, contact Public Works Projects Coordinator, Zoë Kirk at (250) 490-4110 or toll free 1-877-610-3737 or by email: zkirk@rdos.bc.ca