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The Mosquito “Hunger Games” Are Coming To An Area Near You

MOUNT LAUREL, N.J. June 5, 2017 – As the saying goes, “*As folks begin to enjoy spring gardening, mosquitoes will begin enjoying spring gardeners!*” Summer is just around the corner and you can almost smell the burgers on the grill. Unfortunately, you can probably also hear the faint buzzing sound of the deadliest, and most annoying, insect on the planet as it comes in for a meal of its own. As mosquito season nears, the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) reminds the public of the health risks associated with mosquitoes as they become active during the coming months.

Mosquito populations appear to be relatively low so far this year due to the country’s somewhat cold weather patterns and lower rainfall in the west in recent months. This year seems a bit different, with the colder temperatures keeping them in relative low numbers - so far. “The extended winter in many areas will keep mosquito numbers low - but when conditions warm up – watch out!” said Joseph Conlon, AMCA Technical Advisor. “The coming warmer weather will have an impact both on the amount of mosquitoes and how soon they become a problem. We’d best be prepared to meet the threat so that it doesn’t get out of hand early on.”

Conlon expressed the importance of public action. “We promote integrated, effective and sustainable mosquito control as the key to enhancing the public’s quality of life.” He shared how the general public can adopt safe mosquito control following “the 3 D’s”:

- **Drain:** Empty out water containers at least once per week
- **Dress:** Wear long sleeves, long pants, and light-colored, loose-fitting clothing
- **Defend:** Properly apply an approved repellent such as DEET, picaridin, IR3535 or oil of lemon-eucalyptus

“Don’t forget that your rain gutters, tree holes, old buckets or tires - all make excellent spots for mosquitoes to lay their eggs,” says Conlon. “Encouraging your neighbors to also eliminate sources on their own property is critical to a community-wide control program. Mosquitoes require water to complete their life cycle. If their water source is eliminated, so are their offspring.”

About the American Mosquito Control Association

Celebrating 79 years of protecting public health in 2014, the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) is an international not-for-profit public service professional association. With over 1,600 members worldwide in over 50 countries, AMCA is international in scope, and includes individuals and public agencies engaged in mosquito control, mosquito research and related activities. Please visit AMCA online at www.mosquito.org and follow AMCA on Twitter @AMCAupdates.