

Mt. San Antonio Gardens *FIRST ANNUAL*



Mosquito Control Campaign

JULY-OCTOBER 2025

What's the threat?

The mosquitoes in the Gardens are more than an annoyance; they can transmit disease to our residents, staff, and visitors.

- **West Nile Virus:** Locally, this is the most common and most serious mosquito-borne pathogen. It arrived in California in 2003; to date, almost 400 deaths have been reported. West Nile is spread by medium-sized brown *Culex* mosquitoes.
- **Aedes viruses:** Two invasive mosquito species arrived in Claremont and Pomona in 2016-2017: *Aedes aegypti*, the yellow fever mosquito, and *Aedes albopictus*, the Asian tiger mosquito. Both are small, black mosquitoes with white stripes on their backs and legs. They bite during the day and can transmit some of the most debilitating and deadly mosquito-borne viruses known, such as Zika, dengue, chikungunya, and yellow fever. In California, only dengue has been found so far.

What should residents do this year?

- **First of all, dump standing water, at least weekly.** Mosquitoes breed in standing water in such places as birdbaths and outdoor plant saucers and pet bowls.
- Avoid bites. Use safe mosquito repellent on clothes and exposed skin when going outdoors (especially at dawn and dusk). Consider wearing long sleeves and trousers. Ankles are especially vulnerable.
- Make sure screens on windows and doors fit tightly.
- Cut back on using insecticides to limit harm to pets and beneficial wildlife.
- Understand that everyone benefits from mosquito abatement, even though some of us are rarely bitten.

What's next?

A lot more needs to be done on our 31 acres. We don't need to stop using insecticides suddenly or entirely, but the Gardens should move toward "Integrated Pest Management" (IPM), a method based on science and recommended by state and local authorities. IPM focuses on long-term prevention; pesticides are used only when they are really necessary. As new trees and shrubs are planted, and irrigation, drainage, underground wiring, and outdoor lighting systems are updated, pest control will be taken into account. The new Mosquito Control Working Group will assist.

Learn more: www.trzyna.info/IPM



Mosquito Control Working Group

MSAG Conservation & Sustainability Committee

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