



# Calvert County Government

## Mosquito Control Program

### 2025 Season



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## Integrated Mosquito Management

The Mosquito Control Program is committed to an integrated approach toward reducing the mosquito population. Program strategies include physical, biological and chemical methods that reduce reliance on chemical controls for the nuisance and vector mosquito population. Integrated mosquito management lessens the environmental impact caused by over reliance on chemical insecticides while assuring mosquito population controls. Calvert County works with communities on the following strategies:

1. **Neighborhood cleanups:** This is the most effective control for the Asian tiger mosquito, which mainly utilizes artificial containers for breeding. The species is known to carry West Nile Virus in Maryland and has been implicated in the possible transmission of the Zika virus.
2. **Larva control:** Controlling mosquito larvae in their aquatic habitat is extremely cost effective as mosquitoes can be better controlled in a much smaller area compared to that of adult mosquitoes. Predatory fish – mosquito fish – that feed on mosquito larvae are available to all communities that have suitable habitat, i.e., storm water management ponds or other permanent water impoundments that meet Maryland Department of Natural Resources criteria.
3. **Mosquito monitoring:** This approach is part of the "spray only as needed" concept. Mosquito landing rates and light trap counts are monitored and mosquito species are tracked so spraying is based on actual adult mosquito population counts. The decision to spray depends on the number of specimens collected. Monitoring also helps staff determine the type of breeding areas to look for and to control new broods in the larva stage. We encourage all spray communities to become involved in the program. County personnel will train volunteers on monitoring and community cleanup; volunteers then supply monitoring information at least once every seven days.
4. **Mosquito spraying:** Calvert County ultra-low volume spray program for adult mosquitoes is operated under the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Mosquito Control Section guidelines. The local program is supervised by Sarah Roe, a state certified pesticide applicator, who works in cooperation with state entomologists.

Spraying is conducted from approximately May 1 through Oct. 1. The spray equipment is mounted on the back of pickup trucks and is calibrated to ensure insecticide applications at rates in accordance with EPA regulations. The spray's drift is determined by wind direction.

Permethrin is to be used for adult mosquito control. Information on Permethrin is available and labels will be made available upon request. Spraying must be performed when temperatures are not too high nor too low and when winds are favorable. Spraying cannot be done when it is raining or when air quality code is RED.

County policy is to spray when mosquitoes are most active, between dusk and dawn. If possible, the program tries to avoid spraying in the mornings while school is in session.

# Community Participation

## Community Representatives

Communities involved in the Mosquito Control Program must select a representative to act as liaison with the county. All contact with the Mosquito Control Program should be through the community representative. The representative is responsible for:

- contacting residents to determine if they want service;
- preparing and updating maps;
- taking messages, questions and complaints and referring them to county staff, and;
- payment of invoices at the end of the season.

## Required Documentation

Regardless of past participation, all communities in the program are required to submit the following each year:

- A Request for Service form as a matter of record; this includes current names and addresses of representatives
- Maps of their spray area identifying properties to be sprayed and those not to be sprayed. Maps must include house numbers and locations of any domestic bee hives within the community. No community will be sprayed until the map is submitted.

## Spraying on Private Property

Private driveways are not considered part of the spray route. Residents requesting to have private property sprayed, including but not limited to lawns and driveways, are required to complete a Permission to Enter Private Property form and return it to the community representative so it can be included with the map. This should be done annually and whenever there is a change in the homes to be sprayed. Private driveways will be sprayed at the discretion of the driver, provided there is a turnaround area, accessibility and at least 75 feet of unobstructed length.

## Individual Requests for Program Exclusion

Individuals residing within a community participating in the Mosquito Control Program may request to have their owned or leased real property EXCLUDED from adult mosquito control pesticide applications by truck-mounted ultra-low volume (ULV) sprayers. Residents may request one of two options:

1. Exclusion from spraying along the road frontage of the property, or
2. Exclusion including a surrounding buffer up to 300 feet on all sides of the property.

Forms for each option must be completed and submitted each year. Residents may also request to be contacted by Calvert County Mosquito Control so they can avoid spraying for personal or health-related reasons. This may include leaving the premises during spray times or remaining indoors. Community representatives should identify anyone who wishes to avoid spraying so county staff can contact them.

## Program Costs

Community costs are calculated for any grouping of 10 or more adjacent homes, regardless of whether they are part of a recognized community. Eighty percent of homeowners in the grouping must agree to program participation.

Fees for communities with more than 100 homes are capped at the 100-home calculation.

### Community Monitoring

Light trap monitoring determines whether communities will be sprayed and the frequency of spraying based on light trap totals. Communities actively participating in mosquito trapping qualify for a 50 percent reduction in the cost.

Fees are \$10 plus \$1 for each home served in spray area up to and including 100 homes; i.e.:

Minimum Fee: \$10 + \$1 x eight home minimum = \$18

Maximum Fee: \$10 + \$1 x 100 home maximum = \$110

Community Participation in Trapping: 50 percent discount

### Spray (ULV) Service

Costs are shared if meeting 80 percent community approval.

*Hourly rate to include:*

Spray equipment mounted on pickup truck: \$20

Truck operation (gas, oil, etc): \$2

Driver: \$11.20

Chemical: \$28.80

Total: \$62

Community Shared Cost: \$31

*Mosquito fish (gambusia) are offered free of charge.*

*Pricing listed is subject to change by the Board of County Commissioners.*

## Billing and Collection

Billing will be mailed approximately 60 days after the end of the mosquito spraying season with payments due within 60 days of billing. Communities or businesses with past-due bills will not be sprayed until the account is settled.

***Thank you volunteers!*** We want to thank all the volunteers who help us with the Mosquito Control Program.

Whatever part you play in assisting our program, we want you to know we appreciate your help. Thank you!