

## Marks Remarks by Mark Rowen Lincoln County Educator 6-29-10

There have been a number of calls this week about how to control mosquitoes around the home and yard. As with any insecticide use, consult the label and make sure mosquitoes are listed on the label for control.

The life cycle of the mosquito includes part time as a larvae in water, products can be used to control the larvae before they become adults. Mosquitoes do NOT reproduce in running or moving water or in water deeper than about 10 inches. Controlling the larvae stage is effective for mosquito population control, especially around standing or still water. One biological product uses bacteria to infect and paralyze the gut of the larvae, thereby it starves. This has been proven to be effective and safe. Other larvae control products are available that suffocate or prevent molting. All of these control measures can be used for standing or still water and breeding areas along the edges of lakes or ponds, provided label directions are followed closely.

Most of us are more concerned with the adult mosquito and the potential of biting or disease. Use adult mosquito control only as needed. The adult mosquito can travel as much as 2 miles in a day, so adult control is a short term solution.

Portable thermal foggers and residual sprays are two ways homeowners can control adult mosquitoes with pesticides when necessary. Portable thermal foggers use either propane or electricity to convert an approved insecticide into a thermal or "hot" fog. They are available to homeowners for use around the yard and home, but only kill mosquitoes that come in contact with the insecticidal fog, which usually dissipates within hours.

Homeowners can also consider longer-lasting barrier or residual treatments of mosquito resting areas, especially when outdoor events are planned. Such treatments still offer only short-term reductions in mosquito numbers. Labeled insecticides may be applied with an ordinary hand sprayer, hose-end sprayer, or ready-to-use container equipped with a spray gun. Numerous insecticides labeled for yards have mosquitoes listed on the labels. Some pesticide products have specific restrictions limiting where they can be used. Be sure you understand the requirements listed on the label and follow them closely.

Products with an active ingredient ending in "ethrin" use derivatives of pyrethrin or permethrin family of insecticides. These products have been tested and are very safe when used according to label directions. Other products for mosquito use can have active ingredients of malathion, or carbaryl, as well as other active ingredients. These products have been tested and are very safe as well, when used according to label directions.

As with any insecticide, reading the label and following the directions listed is imperative for the optimum performance of the product.