

Since 1980, we began our mosquito control program when we learned about a neighbor who contracted encephalitis by a mosquito. We knew we could play a small part in helping the public health by spraying for mosquitos. Today we continue spraying residential homes as well for state contracts. Below are various questions and answers that may help determine if mosquito spraying would be beneficial to you. -David Eby

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What kind of chemical do you use and how does it work?**
 - AgriFlite use an **adulticide** called Dibrom. This product will only kill the adult mosquitos you have on your property at the time of the spray. The insecticide absorbs into the insect's system and binds to enzymes involved in the transmission of nerve impulses.
- **How much chemical do you use?**
 - According to the Material Safety Data Sheet for Dibrom, Agriflite uses 1oz of Dibrom per acre.
- **Why is it important to spray for mosquitos?**
 - Dibrom has been used in many states to kill mosquitos that carry the Zika and West Nile Viruses.
- **If we have an event planned, when should we call AgriFlite to schedule a spray?**
 - Call AgriFlite in a week(s) advance. This will allow them to look at the weather and find the best time to spray before the event.
- **What weather conditions can AgriFlite spray in for mosquitos?**
 - For the spray to be effective, the temperatures must be above 70 degrees, there is relatively no wind (below 5 mph) and there is not an inversion. An inversion is a rapid increase in temperature leading to a layer in the atmosphere trapping any precipitation falling to the ground.
- **What time in the day do you usually spray for mosquitos?**
 - AgriFlite sprays at dusk between 7pm-9pm. AgriFlite has found that this time increment is when mosquitos are more active.
- **How many times does AgriFlite recommend spraying our property to notice a decrease in the population?**
 - AgriFlite recommends at least two sprays about a week apart. The goal is to break the breeding cycle of the mosquitos. At least two sprays would allow the spray to kill the adult mosquitos you have on your property at the time of the first spray. When you spray a week or two later it will kill the adult mosquitos that were larva at the time of the first spray. When we kill the mosquitos throughout a complete cycle the better the chances are that it will eliminate the breeding ground.
- **How long is the spray effective for?**
 - It will depend on the weather. The spray will kill the adult mosquitos the day we spray. If it rains the next day, that could cause the larva to hatch. This is again why we recommend at least two sprays.
- **Can mosquitos fly in from fields around my property?**
 - It is very possible. Mosquitos can travel up to 6 miles overnight. This is another reason why we suggest a second spray.
- **The mosquitos became more active after AgriFlite sprayed. Why?**
 - As the spray hits the mosquitos the product starts to affect their nervous system, making the mosquito more active. During this time more product will be dispersed to the mosquitos.
- **Can I be outside when the pilot fly's over?**
 - AgriFlite advises all customers to stay inside and wait to go outside until the after the pilot leaves, however Dibrom is not harmful to people and it's ultimately the customer's decision whether to go outside during the spray or not.
- **How long does it take for the spray to dissipate?**
 - In ideal weather conditions, Dibrom breaks down and dissipates rapidly once it reaches the environment, typically between 15 to 20 minutes.
- **Will the spray hurt my animals (dogs, cats, rabbits, fish, etc.)**
 - There are no adverse effects to humans, fish, pets, livestock, wildlife or other non-target species.
- **How can I be proactive to help eliminate the number of mosquitos on my property?**
 - There are several ways you can try to prevent mosquitos from breeding on your property.
 - Clear any standing water
 - Tires, pet dishes, children's toys, pool & boat covers, buckets, bottles, garbage cans.

Why aerial spraying?

- Aerial spraying is only one part of the solution for controlling mosquitoes, but it is the one method that can rapidly reduce the number of mosquitoes in a large area.
- It is the most effective method when large areas must be treated quickly.

How does it work?

- A small amount of insecticide, one to two tablespoons per acre, is dispersed by airplanes equipped with special nozzles that create ultra-low volume droplets specifically calibrated to affect mosquitoes.
- The tiny droplets float in the air and kill adult mosquitoes on contact.
- Any remaining droplets start to break down immediately in sunlight and water.

Is aerial spraying of insecticides harmful to people, pets or livestock?

- No. During aerial spraying, a small amount of insecticide is sprayed over a large area, one to two tablespoons per acre.
- When applied according to label instructions by a licensed professional, it does not pose a health risk to people, pets or the environment in the area.
- EPA-registered products are used for aerial spraying, and label instructions will be followed by a licensed professional.
- If people prefer to stay inside and close windows and doors when spraying takes place they can, but it is not necessary.

Are there any effects on lakes and rivers used for drinking water or recreation?

- No. Because the small amount of insecticide breaks down quickly when it comes into contact with water, it has no lasting effects.

Will aerial application harm bees?

- Spraying will be done in order to minimize any effects on bees.
- Applications will be done starting around dusk when mosquitoes are most active and after bees have returned to the hive for the night. The insecticides dissipate and break down quickly in the environment, and when bees emerge in daylight, they are not affected.
- We do not anticipate any impact to bees or other non-target species.
- Though pesticide applications around dusk and dawn will not cause a significant exposure to bees, beekeepers may choose to cover their colonies and prevent bees from exiting during treatment.

Are there precautions people should take?

According to the EPA, people may prefer to stay inside and close windows and doors when spraying takes place, but it is not necessary. Those who are especially concerned about chemicals may choose to take some of these steps to help reduce exposure:

- Pay attention to specific information on spraying in your area.
- Stay indoors with the windows closed during spraying.
- If you are outdoors when spraying takes place and come in contact with the chemical, rinse your skin and eyes with water.
- Wash fruits and vegetables from your garden before storing, cooking, or eating.
- Cover outside items like furniture and grills before the spraying takes place. Bring pets and items like pet food dishes and children's toys indoors. Rinse any uncovered items left outside before using.
- If you think you have had a reaction, talk to your doctor, or call the Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222.