

Regional District of Central Okanagan Mosquito Control Program

Measures	2019	2018 **	2017 **	2016
Known Surface Water Larval Development Sites	230	230	230	225
# of Application Sites	190	231	175	144
Amount of bio-rational larvicide applied (kg)	1,248	1,180	1,240	748.6
Hectares treated	166	157	165	99.8

** Higher than average high water years

The mandate of the program is to provide effective and efficient nuisance mosquito control through the reduction and management of mosquito larvae in an environmentally friendly manner. This contributes positively to the quality of life and minimizes the risk of West Nile Virus to residents in the Central Okanagan.

Program Questions and Answers

When does it run?

From March/April through September each year known development locations in participating areas throughout the Regional District (Lake Country, Kelowna, Peachland, Central Okanagan East Electoral Area, West Kelowna Estates in West Kelowna) are inspected for signs of mosquito larvae. There needs to be standing water for at least seven days for mosquitoes to thrive. If larvae are found, bio-rational larvicide pellets containing a heat killed bacterium is applied to the water surface, which kills the larvae within hours. Problem areas are visited regularly to ensure there are no new hatches.

What is the pellet used in the larvicide program?

The larvicide acronym is *Bti* for *Bacillus thuringiensis var israelensis*, a bacterial extract that is ingested by the larval stage of the mosquito. The extract contains a protein that when ingested, ruptures the gut of the mosquito larvae. The product is not persistent (approximately 96 hours) and is non-toxic.

How many sites are monitored?

There are approximately 230 known mosquito larval development sites being monitored within the participating areas. Also 12,000 roadside catch basins are monitored and treated as needed in participating jurisdictions of Kelowna, Lake Country, Peachland and the Central Okanagan East Electoral Area.

Who licenses the program?

The Regional District of Central Okanagan has a Pest Management Plan and Confirmation Number from the BC Ministry of Environment which permits the RDCO to conduct mosquito surveillance and control program. The RDCO keeps a record of the location, number of applications and the volume of *Bti* used.

How do I report possible mosquito breeding sites?

Residents can report concerns with mosquitoes by calling 1-800-681-3472 or completing an online form at rdco.com/mosquitoes.

Why is this type of nuisance control program used?

This program is sensitive to the need to protect our environment and has proven effective in controlling the nuisance mosquito population throughout the Central Okanagan while also reducing the potential risk of the West Nile Virus.