

## MOSQUITOES

### DESCRIPTION

Adults are approximately 1/8 to 3/8" long, with the body and legs normally covered with scales. They are mostly gray to black in colour; some marked with white, silver, green, or iridescent blue scales. The head is long with 15-segmented antennae that are feathery on the male and hairy on the female. They have two wings that are long and narrow with scales along the veins and wing margin.



Larvae have a wider head and thorax than the abdomen, the thorax consisting of 3 fused segments and being the widest. Antennas have only one segment. Their mouthparts with labial brush usually consist of numerous fine hairs.

### HABITS

Mosquitoes have adapted to almost every kind of aquatic situation such as permanent ponds, marshes, temporary flood waters, woodland pools, drainage ditches, water contained in tree holes, leaves of plants, or artificial containers. Mosquitoes do not develop in flowing streams or the open waters of large streams, rivers, and lakes. The number of generations per year ranges from 1 in cold climates to many in warmer climates where they develop continuously. The larvae feed on small aquatic organisms and organic debris in the water, the pupae do not feed, and the adult males feed on plant nectar. Adult females also feed on plant nectar but also require a blood meal before they can lay eggs in standing water. Females can lay several hundred eggs for each blood meal.

Flight ranges vary with the species but the average range is around 1-5 kilometres, with record ranges between 30-50 kilometres. The time of day at which biting occurs varies by species but most bite at dusk and dawn.

### CONTROL

Control begins with an accurate and thorough assessment of the problem. On the household level, relief can be achieved by preventing entry to structures through proper screening, sealing, and applying properly labelled residual pesticides to resting surfaces. Larvicides can be used in areas of standing water such as ditches, birdbaths, ponds and marshes. These will kill the larvae before they hatch. Fogging will also provide you with a mosquito free zone for a period of time. Treat under shrubs, short cut grass, and tall grasses where most mosquitoes rest during the day.

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#### Brandon

707 10th St  
204-727-7934  
877-727-7934

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1245 Winnipeg St  
306-757-0323  
877-433-4877

#### Saskatoon

1524 Idylwyld Dr N  
306-242-5229  
877-287-2340

#### Calgary

4801 – 32 St SE  
403-272-6006  
877-533-2500

#### Edmonton

8737 118th Ave  
780-477-1671  
877-477-1971

#### Lethbridge

608 13th St N  
403-394-3600  
877-533-2500