

Gainey Ranch Homeowner

As we enter mid-June, and the monsoons rain starts the likelihood of coming into contact with mosquitos increases. While the likelihood that the mosquito is carrying West Nile or other viruses is low, that fact is we all need to be diligent in mosquito control.

The mosquito season is from **May to October** each year, with the peak occurring typically **July/August**.

Maricopa county has an extensive mosquito-trapping program (800+ trapping sites) that enables staff to identify where there is mosquito activity and to detect any mosquito-borne diseases. Maricopa staff maintains 4 mosquito trapping sites in the Gainey Ranch/McCormick Ranch regional area.

During 2021 throughout all of **Maricopa county** there were **764 positive mosquitos** trapped by Maricopa staff up from **417 positive mosquitos trapped by Maricopa staff in 2019**.

Maricopa County had a surge of West Nile cases in 2021, with 1463 documented West Nile infections.

The fact is mosquitos depend upon standing water to breed and maintain the population. Standing water in a soda can is enough water to breed hundreds of mosquitos.

Gainey Ranch management is proactive in mosquito control, routinely looking for standing water areas that do not drain within 24 hours. The areas with persistent standing water are treated with a larvicide to eliminate the mosquito larva.

Gainey Ranch management along with Golf Course management use outside services to apply chemicals to the many lakes/ponds that are on the ranch to ensure mosquito lava are eliminated.

The fact is most of the standing water sites come from backyards and patios of homeowner whether the homeowner is in town or not. Typical mosquito breeding sites in backyards are flowerpots, buckets, barrels, containers, or landscape low areas, which may hold water from rain events or routine irrigation. Please ensure that your yard is clear of standing water.

What you can do to protect yourself.

- Use insect Repellent when outdoors or Mosquito Repeller's when sitting on your deck in the evening.
- Wear long sleeves and pants when outdoors.
- Be aware dusk and dawn are peak biting times for many species of mosquitoes.
- Repair torn screens on windows and doors.
- Drain Standing Water