

## WATERING

### HOME LAWNS AND LANDSCAPING

- **Correct watering makes GOOD economic sense.** Based on use patterns and water costs in Boise and the surrounding area analysis from the **University of Idaho, College of Agriculture** shows that overwatering can add **\$75-\$150 or more annually** to the cost of water for a typical urban household depending on property size and watering practices.
- Overwatering encourages disease development and
- restricts the uptake of plant nutrients.
- Overwatering can damage plants because oxygen cannot properly be absorbed by plant roots. When “hair” roots die, a plant becomes more susceptible to moisture stress later in the season when water may not be available.

### HOW MUCH WATER IS ENOUGH?

- **Soil type and texture is important.** Sandy soils and silt/loamy soils can take more water than heavy clays. Lawns with a sandy/loam/silt soils should require watering every 2 days in mid-summer. Heavy clays with poor drainage may go every three days before they need watering.
- **Simple tests to know when to water.**
  1. **The ball test:** Form a ball of soil and squeeze in the palm of your hand. If a ball is easily formed then you will need to water in about 2 days.
  2. **The screwdriver test:** Depress a screwdriver into the soil at several locations in your lawn, if the screwdriver goes in smoothly, there is no need to water for at least couple of days.
- **Water less often when** the weather is cloudy and/or cool.
- **Water in early morning** to avoid water loss due to evaporation.

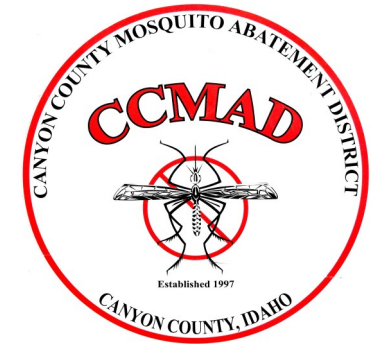
## CREATE MOSQUITO FREE

### PASTURES

- **Have your land properly graded to drain irrigation runoff.** Without proper grading, irrigation may be less effective and mosquito problems are more likely.
- **Apply only enough water to wet the soil to depth of forage rooting.** Nutrients may leach from the soil, water will be wasted, and standing water be more likely.
- **Irrigate only as frequently as is needed to maintain proper soil moisture.** Check soil moisture regularly until you know how your pasture takes to drains and “behave.”
- **Keep animals off the pasture while the soil is soft.** An ideal mosquito habitat is created when water collects in hoof-prints of animals that were run on wet fields or left in fields during irrigation. Keeping animals off wet fields until soils stiffen also protects the roots of forage crops and prevents soil “compaction” that can cause drainage issues and reduce plant growth.
- **Rotate fields.** Break up your pasture into a number of smaller fields so that animals can be rotated from one field to another. This allows fields to dry between irrigation and provide sufficient growth period between grazing. It also prevents hoof print damage, increases production from irrigated pastures, and helps improve water penetration into the soil promoting a better root system.
- **Do not over fertilize!** Excess fertilizer may leach into irrigation water tail ditches causing excess algae growth which is ideal habitat for mosquito production.

**This information was provided by Dept. of Entomology, University of California, Davis.**

## BE WATER WISE



## Facts to Control Mosquitoes

### STANDING WATER IS THE ENEMY

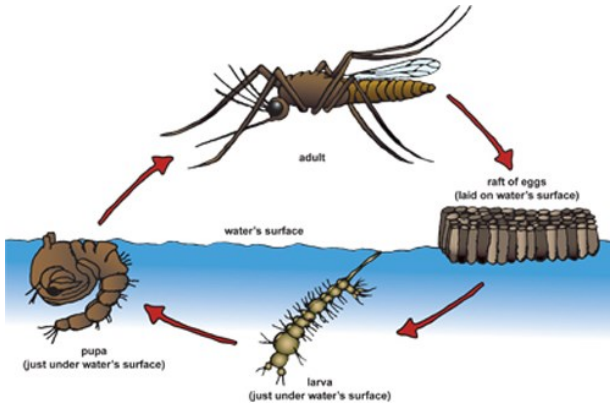
#### **Overlooked Mosquito Production Sites:**

- ✓ **Neglected swimming pools, bird baths, water features and ornamental pools, pet dishes, planters, leaky hoses, clogged rain gutters.**
- ✓ **Tree holes, landscape depressions, storm drains.**
- ✓ **Boat covers, old tires and swimming pool covers.**
- ✓ **Wetlands, drain fields, ponds.**

#### **Many Mosquito Problems are localized:**

#### **Inspect the following areas for breeding mosquitoes.**

- Roof Rain Gutters
- Irrigation retention ponds or depressions.
- Irrigation control boxes.
- Fish Ponds
- Ornamental Water Features
- Swimming Pools and Wading Pools
- Containers and Flower Pots.
- Bird Baths
- Livestock Watering troughs
- Air Conditioner and Heat Pump Drains.
- Street Gutters and Street Storm Water Drains.



**MOSQUITOES NEED WATER  
TO SURVIVE!**



**Mosquito larvae in water.**

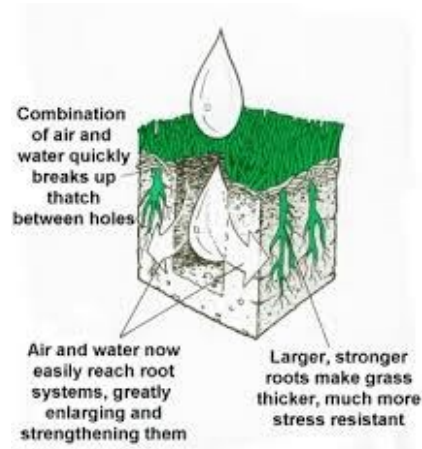


**Do's and Don'ts to Prevent Mosquitoes in  
Your Yard:**

- **DO** avoid over irrigating!
- **DO** clean roof gutters on a regular basis.
- **DON'T** wash lawn clippings or other litter own storm drains!
- **DO** change water in pet bowls and bird baths at least twice a week.
- **DON'T** let aquatic weeds build up in ornamental ponds or water features.
- **DO** drain wading pools regularly.
- **DON'T** let water stand on swimming pool covers and boat covers.

**AERATE YOUR LAWN ANNUALLY!**

**CORE aeration can improve drainage and prevent standing water in a lawn.**



**MINIMIZE STANDING WATER!**



**AN EASY TO MEMORIZE FORMULA**

**1 inch of standing water + 4 days @ 80° F**

**=**



**CALL US at**

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**OR VISIT OUR WEBPAGE**

**Canyoncountymosquito.com**

**To report standing water!**