



News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Summer Mosquito Testing by OSU Graduate Students

(ALTUS, OKLAHOMA): It's summer time! And time to be thinking about those pesky mosquitoes in your neighborhood. Have you ever wondered what kinds of mosquitoes might be bothering you?

Beginning in late May/early June, graduate students from the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology at Oklahoma State University will be studying the different kinds of mosquitoes that are breeding in containers in our neighborhoods in southcentral and southwestern Oklahoma. In early June, the mosquito team will be asking selected residents for permission to place traps in the vegetation in the front yards of homes in our community. The team's truck will be identifiable by orange magnets found on all sides of the vehicle. During the study, the team will use two types of container traps which collect the types of mosquitoes that are often found within old tires, flowers pots, empty buckets, or any type of human containers containing water found around houses.

It is important to note that this work is not being done because of any disease outbreak – but as way for the Oklahoma Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to know how to best help Oklahoma communities prepare for any future mosquito-related threats. The ultimate goal is to help Oklahoma communities be safe from mosquito-borne diseases. We thank you for your assistance in helping to make this process run smoothly this summer.

Lastly, here are a few things you can do to prevent an outbreak of mosquito population and protect you and your family: (1) Dump outdoor water containers weekly, (2) remove waste containers, (3) place lids on remaining containers, (4) wear protective clothing, (5) use insect repellants containing DEET, (6) remain indoors when mosquitoes are most active – early morning and late afternoon.

For more information, check the OSU Extension website at <http://oces.okstate.edu/jackson> or call the OSU Extension Office in Altus at (580) 482-0823 or OSU Entomology in Stillwater at (405) 744-5527.

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