Protecting and improving the nation’s health

Controlling mosquitoes in your garden

There are more than 30 species of mosquito native to the British Isles. Some of these only bite birds and many species are confined to specific habitat types such as salt-marsh, reedbed, or wet woodland. However a number of species may breed in a range of aquatic habitats in gardens, and some of these bite people and may cause a nuisance.

Removing any standing water in your garden can reduce the number of mosquitoes in your garden and can help avoid nuisance biting by mosquitoes.

- Blocked gutters and drains can provide habitats for mosquitoes, so keep them clear to allow the water to freely drain.
- Rain water can collect in litter, tarpaulins, buckets, open bins, wheelbarrows, and tyres, so arrange these so that the water can drain away.
- Mosquitoes often breed in water butts. A well fitted lid will help to stop mosquitoes breeding in these containers.
- Permanent, healthy ponds will provide habitat for a range of predators that will reduce mosquitoes in these habitats.
- Water in paddling pools and bird baths should be drained and refilled every few days, so that mosquito larvae do not develop.

Public Health England welcomes records and mosquito samples for identification from entomologists, environmental health officers, and people who are affected by mosquito nuisance biting. If you would like to send mosquitoes for identification please download the form from our website or contact us at mosquito@phe.gov.uk