

# WHAT IS IMM?

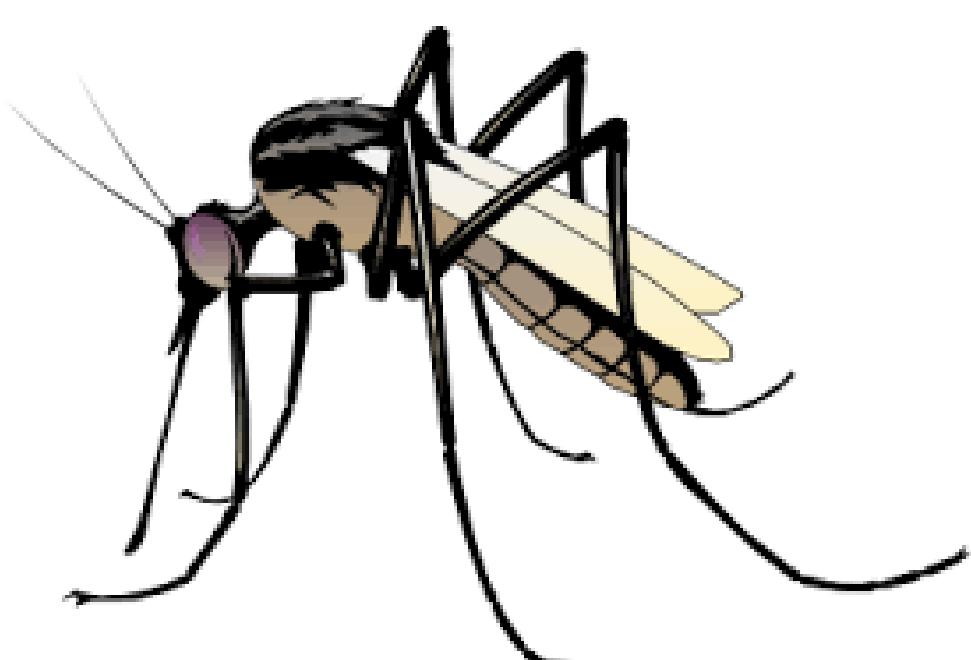
Integrated Mosquito Management



## BACKGROUND

Integrated Mosquito Management is a type of Integrated Pest Management that targets mosquitoes. IPM is used in many fields from agriculture to public health and beyond. The main goal of IPM is to reduce the use of pesticides and costs while still effectively impacting pest populations. In IMM the goal is to reduce the nuisance and disease risk presented by mosquitoes, while causing minimal harm to the environment.

Mosquitoes are vectors for many different diseases worldwide. In Norfolk County, MA they can carry and transmit both West Nile virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEEv). The best way to prevent these diseases from emerging in the human population is to prevent the right species of mosquitoes from developing into adults and biting people.



## COMPONENTS OF AN IMM PROGRAM

### Surveillance

Mosquito and disease surveillance are one of the most important parts of an IMM program. In order to effectively control mosquitoes we need to know what species are where and in what life stage. All of our control work is supported by the surveillance data we collect. The species that vector diseases are submitted to the MDPH for WNV and EEEv testing. This information goes into the creation of risk maps for the public.

### Source Reduction

Mosquitoes need standing water to breed and develop into adults. Source reduction works to eliminate known mosquito breeding areas by clearing obstructions and keeping water flowing. On a smaller scale, it is important that everyone plays a part by dumping out any standing water on their property.

### Control

We use a variety of different products to control mosquitoes in the larval, pupal, and adult stages. Each of these products have been extensively tested and researched and we are continually evaluating their efficacy and how well they fit within our program.

### Public Outreach and Education

Everyone plays a part in mosquito control and staying safe from mosquito borne disease. By dumping standing water on your property and using the right insect repellents correctly we can all do our part to help prevent mosquito breeding and disease transmission.