



ILLINOIS MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION

POLICY ON MOSQUITO CONTROL

Mosquitoes are a serious threat to human health and comfort; control of mosquitoes significantly increases access to the outdoors and the quality of life in Illinois. Although mosquitoes are part of the natural environment, the activities of humans often increase mosquito populations. Consequently, humans must intervene in nature to minimize excessive mosquito populations.

The Executive Committee of the Illinois Mosquito Control Association wants to encourage excellence and professionalism by both public and private mosquito control workers. The I. M. C. A. wishes to establish a broad outline of the integrated control of mosquitoes that can be adapted to local needs and conditions. This policy is a statement of the philosophy of the scientific control of mosquito populations.

SURVEILLANCE OF MOSQUITO POPULATIONS: Mosquito control measures should be based on adequate field data. Control should not be rigidly scheduled, but rather should be based on the presence of significant mosquito populations.

INTEGRATED CONTROL OF MOSQUITOES: Integrated control of mosquito populations requires a spectrum of measures. The primary method of control is source reduction, the elimination or reduction of mosquito breeding sites. Source reduction is preferable to chemical control and should be attempted whenever economically and environmentally possible. Naturalistic control by predators and/or parasites should be attempted under suitable conditions. However, the use of naturalistic mosquito control measures should be based on scientific data and controlled field experiments rather than testimonials and tradition.

Although source reduction and naturalistic control should be encouraged, they will rarely reduce mosquito populations to tolerable levels during mosquito population peaks. Consequently, safe and effective chemical control methods are often needed. Chemical control agents should be chosen that have a minimal impact on non-target organisms, but not all agents are suitable for all uses. The choice of a particular agent should be based on: 1) the biology of the particular mosquito species; and 2) the local environmental conditions. Effective mapping of breeding sites is the most important component of a mosquito control program. A strong larviciding program is a prerequisite for any effective mosquito control organization. Adulticiding should be considered a supplement to rather than a substitute for larviciding.

TRAINING OF MOSQUITO CONTROL PERSONNEL: All mosquito control personnel should receive adequate training, including periodic retraining. Label recommendations and manufacturer's instructions should be followed. Chemical control agents should be applied under proper environmental conditions for effective control. Control programs should not be based on tradition, but should be periodically reviewed. In addition to their responsibility to serve the public, mosquito control personnel have a responsibility to protect the public and environment from improper use of chemical mosquito control agents.

PUBLIC EDUCATION: One of the strongest weapons the mosquito control worker has is an informed, educated public. An informed public can help mosquito control workers minimize breeding in residential areas. An aggressive public education program will help reduce misinformation and minimize unreasonable demands on mosquito control workers. The press should be enlisted to help inform the public about the methods and requirements of effective mosquito control.