

Don't raise mosquitoes that can carry West Nile Virus
Maintain a mosquito-free rain barrel



USING A RAIN BARREL TO COLLECT RAIN WATER for later use on the lawn or in the garden saves tap water and reduces the amount of water entering the storm-water system. Modern rain barrels have been designed to prevent access to the water's surface by egg-laying adult mosquitoes. This is especially important because mosquitoes that would lay eggs in a rain barrel are the kind that can carry West Nile Virus. These mosquitoes are "home-bodies" and will stay close to where they hatch. An improperly maintained rain barrel that allows mosquitoes to lay eggs, can produce thousands of mosquitoes in a short time.

It is crucial to maintain the rain barrel's defense against the entry of mosquitoes. Be sure to keep screens attached and repair any holes that occur. Remove any organic debris such as leaves from the top of the barrel. Periodically check for the presence of "wigglers", mosquito larvae or pupae, and empty the rain barrel immediately if found.

The Desplaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District is responsible for mosquito control in your area. For more information, visit our web site at: www.desplainesvalleymad.com. To contact the district, send email to contact@desplainesvalleymad.com or call (708) 447-1765.

