

## Yellow Fever Mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) Fact Sheet

### What is the yellow fever mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*)?

The yellow fever mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) is an invasive mosquito; it is not native to California. This black and white striped mosquito bites people and animals during the day.

### Why are we concerned about the yellow fever mosquito in California?

This mosquito is an aggressive day biting mosquito and has the potential to transmit several viruses, including dengue, chikungunya, and yellow fever. However, none of these viruses are currently known to be transmitted within California. The eggs of the yellow fever mosquito have the ability to survive being dry for long periods of time which allows eggs to be easily spread to new locations.

### Where do yellow fever mosquitoes lay their eggs?

The female mosquitoes lay their eggs in artificial or natural containers that hold water. Containers can include dishes under potted plants, bird baths, ornamental fountains, tin cans, or discarded tires. Even a small amount of standing water can produce mosquitoes.

### What is the life cycle of the yellow fever mosquito?

About three days after a blood meal, the female lays her eggs inside a container just above the water line. Eggs are laid over a period of several days, are resistant to drying, and can survive for periods of six or more months. When the container is refilled with water, the eggs hatch into larvae. The entire life cycle (i.e., from egg to adult) can occur in as little as 7-8 days. The life span for adult mosquitoes is around three weeks. In colder climates, these mosquitoes do not survive through the winter in the egg stage.

### When do yellow fever mosquitoes bite?

This mosquito bites primarily during the day, both indoors and outdoors. They are most active for approximately two hours after sunrise and several hours before sunset, but can bite at night in well-lit areas. The yellow fever mosquito can bite people without being noticed. This mosquito prefers biting people but it also bites dogs and other domestic animals, mostly mammals.

### What can I do to keep from being bitten by yellow fever mosquitoes?

Apply repellents containing EPA registered ingredients such as DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535 to exposed skin and/or clothing (as directed on the product label). Wear long sleeve shirts, long pants, socks and shoes when mosquitoes are most active. Be sure window and door screens are in good repair to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

**How can I help control these mosquitoes?**

Check your yard weekly for water-filled containers. Clean and scrub bird baths and pet-watering dishes weekly and dump the water from overflow dishes under potted plants and flower pots. Check that gutters are not holding water.

**What should I do if I am bitten by mosquitoes during the day?**

Contact your local vector control district if you detect unusual numbers of mosquitoes or you are being bitten during the day.

**Where can I get more information about yellow fever mosquitoes?**

You can find more information about yellow fever mosquitoes on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/dengue/entomologyEcology/index.html>

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