

METRO VANCOUVER NUISANCE MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM

Morrow BioScience Ltd. has been contracted by Metro Vancouver to undertake nuisance mosquito control in areas of the Township of Langley, City of Surrey, City of Pitt Meadows, the District of Maple Ridge and the City of Coquitlam. The program includes:

- Monitoring river levels, temperature, rainfall and snow pack levels
- Monitoring numbers of larval mosquitoes in water bodies
- Applying naturally occurring bacterial larvicide to water bodies
- Monitoring numbers of adult mosquitoes to gauge effectiveness of treatment
- Public education and community outreach

Larval Mosquito Monitoring

Potential larval mosquito development sites are visited at least once every seven days from May through June to determine if any pesticide application is required. This process includes counting samples of larval mosquitoes in water bodies to determine when and how severe the hatch of adult mosquitoes will be and to best time larvicide applications to be most effective.

Controlling Mosquito Numbers with Larvicide

During larval mosquito monitoring, if the number of mosquito larvae counted in a sample exceeds predetermined threshold levels, a naturally occurring larvicide, Bti, is immediately applied to the water by hand or by helicopter over large areas. Bti is non-toxic, persists in the environment for only a few days and specifically targets mosquito larvae. Mosquito larvae ingest the bacteria with their food and die within a few hours. This is the most effective method to control numbers of adult mosquitoes.

Monitoring Effectiveness

To make sure the program is operating effectively, locations where larvicide have been applied are revisited and treated as required. Adult mosquito traps are also used to monitor effectiveness and provide species information.

Public Education and Community Outreach

Morrow BioScience Ltd. (MBL) operates a [Mosquito Hotline: 604-432-6228](tel:604-432-6228). Residents of Coquitlam, Langley, Surrey, Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows can call this hotline number to report mosquito related concerns and get more information about mosquitoes and the Metro Vancouver Nuisance Mosquito Control Program. The phone line is available 24 hours a day and all inquiries are responded to within 24 hours of receiving messages. MBL also attends community education events in the participating municipalities to talk about the program and answer questions.

Protect Yourself

Mosquitoes are most active between dusk and dawn. If you are outside in the evening or early morning, minimize your exposure to bites by:

- Wearing long sleeved shirts and long pants.
- Wearing light-coloured clothing. Mosquitoes are attracted to dark, intense colours.
- Wearing clothing made of tightly woven materials that will keep mosquitoes away from the skin. The use of mesh “bug jackets” or “bug hats” is also recommended during extreme conditions.
- Using mosquito netting to protect infants when in an unscreened structure or when sleeping outdoors.
- Considering an insect repellent containing DEET or other approved ingredients.

For more information, call the Mosquito Hotline: 604-432-6228

