

# The Asian Tiger Mosquito

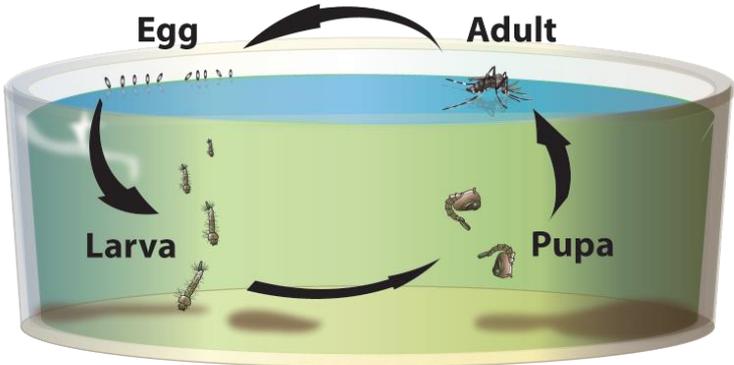
## General information

- The Asian Tiger Mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) is a small, dark mosquito with stripes and banded legs.
- This is the most common mosquito found in University Park Town (yard surveys and trapping data).



- They are strongly attracted to bite humans, but will feed on dogs, cats, deer and other mammals, as well as birds.
- These mosquitoes can use natural habitats (treeholes) and artificial containers (tires, toys, flower pots, etc.) with water to lay their eggs.
- They have a short flight range, less than 200 meters. This means that if there are mosquitoes in your backyard, it must have originated there or just nearby.

- The entire immature or aquatic cycle (from egg to adult) can occur in as little as 8-10 days.



- It bites mainly during the daytime
- Difficult to eliminate UNLESS eggs and egg-laying containers are eliminated
- The Asian Tiger mosquito lays its eggs in water. The larvae MUST live in water for a week before undergoing their complete transformation to a full-fledged adult.

## Medical importance

- The Asian Tiger mosquitos are vectors for diseases in humans that include West Nile Virus, Dengue and Chikungunya.
- On April 29<sup>th</sup> The Washington Post published an article that states that for the first time in the western hemisphere, researchers have detected the Zika virus in the Asian Tiger Mosquito, which

increases the number of U.S states potentially at risk for transmission of the disease

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the\\_americas/new-discovery-means-more-us-states-will-face-a-risk-from-zika/2016/04/29/497ffa98-0d59-11e6-bc53-db634ca94a2a\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/new-discovery-means-more-us-states-will-face-a-risk-from-zika/2016/04/29/497ffa98-0d59-11e6-bc53-db634ca94a2a_story.html)

- The “Tiger” can also transmit dog heartworm parasites.
- The “Tiger” has also been found infected in nature with Eastern equine encephalitis, and Japanese encephalitis viruses.

## **The Northern House Mosquito**

- The Northern House Mosquito (*Culex pipiens*) is small, mostly plain light brown in color, and legs do not show any distinctive mark like the Asian Tiger mosquito.
- This is the second most common mosquito found in University Park Town.



- As with the Asian Tiger Mosquito, *Culex pipiens* mosquitoes uses standing water to lay eggs, often small containers such as bird baths, barrels, used tires, tin cans, etc.
- The northern house mosquito usually bites at night time (7 pm to 6 am), and sometimes enters homes in the Fall in search of a sheltered place to overwinter.

## **Medical importance**

- The Northern House mosquito is the main vector of West Nile Virus (WNV) in urbanized areas in the northeast and north-central of the United States.
- It is also the most important vector of Eastern Equine Encephalitis.
- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported 45 cases of WNV in Maryland, of which 5 ended on death in 2015.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/westnile>