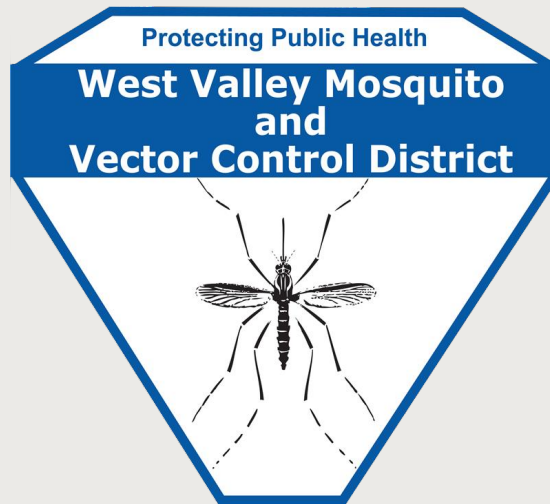


Subject: West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District Newsletter

Date: Monday, September 27, 2021 at 3:20:10 PM Pacific Daylight Time

From: West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

To: Brian Reisinger



September, 2021

The Valley Buzz

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:



As of September 17th, the District has detected five mosquito samples positive for West Nile virus.

For the state of California, as of September 17th, there have been 2,032 West Nile virus (WNV) positive mosquito samples from 25 counties.

While the virus activity is significantly reduced this year, the spread of invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes continues. These mosquitoes are aggressive day-time biting, back yard breeders. If you are experiencing bites in the lower leg and ankle area, please contact the District. We can help!

For status updates on West Nile Virus in the District, please connect with us on Facebook or Twitter, or go to www.wvmvcd.org.

Dr. Michelle Brown

TECHNICIAN'S TIPS:

Yard Maintenance

Dumping standing water is very important when it comes to getting rid of mosquitoes, but the overall grooming of your yard is a key component for keeping other critters out of your yard as well.

Grass should be cut fairly short to discourage fleas and ticks. Bushes and hedges, woodpiles, miscellaneous debris like tires and trash, and even unkempt sheds/outside storage can provide shelter for adult mosquitoes and rodents. Bushes should be trimmed several inches from the ground and away from walls and fences. Keep woodpiles raised off the ground and away from walls and fences.

Sheds and storage bins should be free of gaps in lids/doors and keep the insides tidy – junk inside can give rodents all they need to make nests! The District can provide you with a free inspection to help you identify areas that may need attention. You can also check with your local water district for free advice and ideas on creating clean, water-wise yards.



Dense vegetation, especially close to the house, can harbor unwanted critters!

FROM OUR LABORATORY:

We're in a drought, why do I have mosquitoes!?!

The District is always stressing the importance of removing standing water, the primary culprit for maintaining mosquitoes in an area. So, one would assume when water levels are down throughout Southern California, then mosquito populations must go down too; but we often experience the opposite. Drought conditions tend to force insects (and all other types of wildlife) into our backyards, the only places left that provide food, shelter, and water! Make your yards inhospitable by making sure there is no standing water and wear a good repellent when outdoors. Wet or dry, don't let 'em fly!

OUTREACHING OUT TO YOU!

Kissing bugs?!

There is always something new and interesting in the wild world of bugs! The District was recently contacted by a resident regarding a bug they found that they believed to be a kissing bug. Kissing bugs are known vectors in for Chagas disease in South America, and local specimens have been shown to carry the parasite as well. Chagas, caused by a protozoan parasite, is transmitted to people in a unique way. When some species of kissing bugs feed, they defecate during the feed on the host. The parasite is shed in the fecal material and people can become infected when they scratch the parasite into the skin.

The specimen was positively identified as *Triatoma protracta*, the local species of kissing bug in our area. Staff investigated the resident's yard, the surroundings, and set traps for the critters as well, but have not found any evidence of more kissing bugs. Kissing bugs are not uncommon in California, but are rarely found in the urban environment, preferring to cohabitate with woodrats in wilderness areas. *Triatoma protracta* also do not defecate while feeding, so on the rare occasion we do encounter them, the likelihood of disease transmission is very low.

While this encounter is rare, it goes to show us that the natural world can always surprise us!



BUGGING OUT!

Habitat

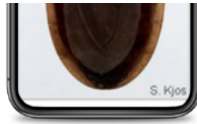
- Rural foothills
- Mountainous areas



Traits

- Long cone-shaped head/ black or brown body

- Often live in woodrat nests



- Attracted to lights

Have you seen a Kissing Bug?

If you believe you've seen a kissing bug please take a picture or collect the bug and contact us!



Have you seen a Kissing Bug? Contact:

909-635-0307
wvmvdc.org

1295 E. Locust St
Ontario, CA 91761



While we face many challenges in public health, we are confident that with your continued support, cooperation, and friendship, we can continue to protect our residents in this vast and ever-changing landscape.

Thank you for supporting us over the years!

Contact Us
Phone: 909-635-0307
Email: adminemail@wvmvcd.org
Website: wvmvcd.org

Connect with us



West Valley MVCD | 1295 East Locust St, Ontario, CA 91761 909-635-0307, www.wvmvcd.org

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