

Environmental Impacts of Spraying Your Yard to Kill Mosquitoes

Introduction

Please don't have pesticides sprayed around your home to kill mosquitoes. Unintentionally, this spray also kills beneficial insects such as bees and butterflies. Instead, we all can reduce the mosquito population by working together to stop them from breeding around our homes, without using toxic chemicals. Please read the next page for helpful tips that will benefit you, our neighbors, and the environment. Let's spread the word!

Fight the Bite: Stop Mosquito Breeding



Helpful tips on next page

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We are not a fan of mosquitoes. But, before having pesticides sprayed around your home to kill mosquitoes, **please be aware the spray also kills bees, caterpillars, butterflies, fireflies and many other insects** that are vital to the complex food web on which birds and other wildlife depend. This also applies to products that are organic or natural. You've probably read about how important bees and other pollinators are for pollinating our food crops, they are also necessary to maintain the flowering plants in yards and natural areas.

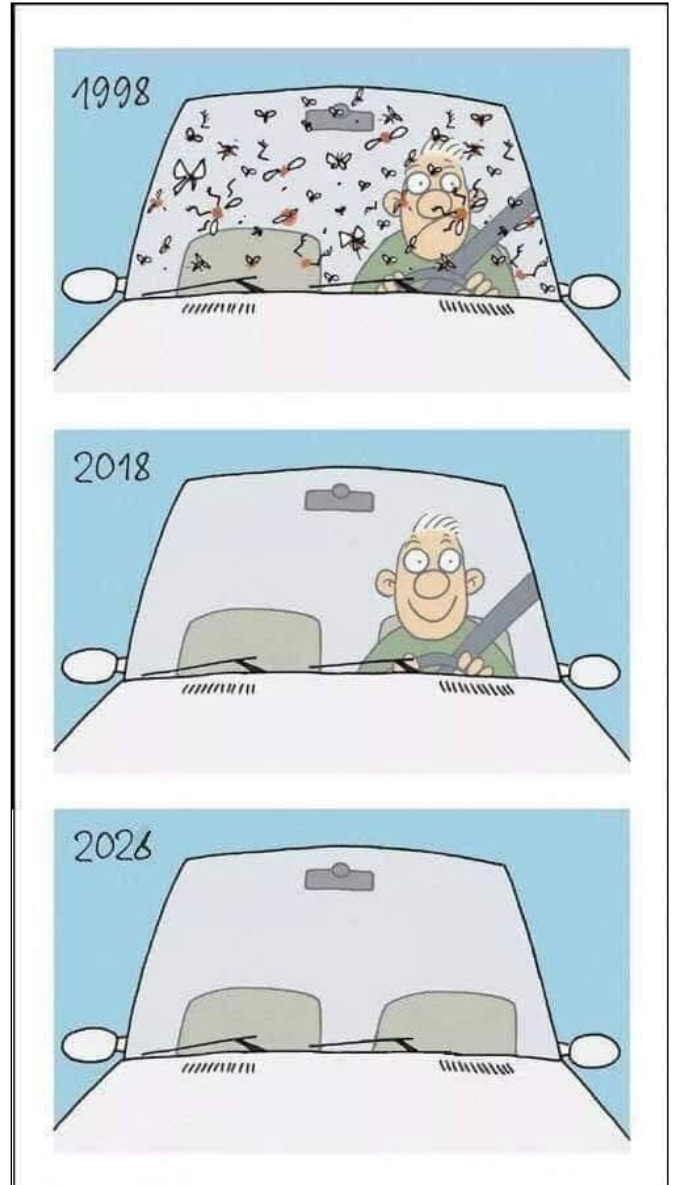
Instead, Stop Mosquito Breeding

1) Mosquitoes need stagnant water to breed and grow which can be as small as in a bottle cap. The most important step we all can take to help eliminate mosquitoes is to get rid of sources of standing water around our homes (such as leaky hoses, clogged rain gutters, corrugated drain pipes, clogged drains, containers, tarps, tree holes, and other non-draining areas). Also, screen or cover rain barrels. Take a look around for standing water now, and after it rains.

2) For a standing water feature (e.g. bird bath), drain it every 5 days (to kill mosquito larva). If it's not easy to drain (e.g. small pond), check every few days for mosquito larva (looks like less than ¼ inch worms). If you see larva, use a BTI Mosquito Dunk. Also, wash pet dishes regularly.

Prevent Mosquito Bites

A box fan on the patio is a way to avoid bites as the breeze keeps the mosquitoes away. Citronella candles may help. Instead of spraying the environment, please consider wearing protective clothing and using mosquito repellent as directed.



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