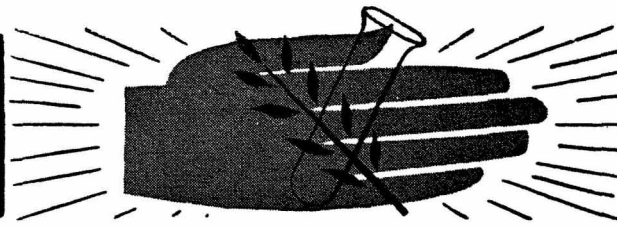


# Health



# Hints

## MOSQUITOES

Mosquitoes are well known for the annoyance caused by their bites, and their prevalence in large numbers during the Summer months. The male mosquito lives only a few days. The female may live for weeks. It is only the female mosquito that bites man.

There are three commonly known types of mosquitoes in New South Wales, the House Mosquito, the Dengue Fever and Yellow Fever Mosquito, and the Malarial Mosquito.

### Disease Spreaders

All mosquitoes are dangerous because they convey disease from one human being to another. Among the diseases known to be spread by mosquitoes in Australia are Malaria, Filariasis, of which Elephantiasis is a complication; and Dengue Fever. The Dengue Fever Mosquito is believed also to be able to carry Encephalitis and possibly other diseases.

### Breeding Places

Mosquitoes breed only in water, some species preferring stagnant and polluted water. Water standing just a few days can produce a crop of mosquitoes. Ponds, marshes, slowly running streams, pools, old tins, bottles, etc., containing rainwater, uncovered cisterns or water tanks, septic tanks, defective roof gutters, blocked street gutters, flower vases and other receptacles containing water—all of these may serve as breeding places.

Remember—one small breeding place may affect a whole neighbourhood.

### Types of Mosquitoes

#### *The Common House Mosquito*

Widely distributed throughout Australia. It bites mainly at night time. Apart from being a known carrier of disease, it causes loss of sleep by its noise in flight and its painful bite. In the daytime the house mosquito rests in dark places, behind wardrobes or dressing tables, on hanging clothes or in cupboards.

#### *Malarial Mosquitoes*

Various species have been found in most States of the Commonwealth, although they are more prevalent in the Northern portion of the continent. Malarial mosquitoes have wings spotted with white or black scales, which are unusual in other types.

These mosquitoes have been known to spread malaria in various parts of Australia—but it is important to realise that the mosquito itself is not the cause of malaria, it is merely the means by which the disease is spread from an infected person to a healthy one.

#### *The Dengue or Yellow Fever Mosquito*

This mosquito is always a danger, as it may cause a disastrous epidemic of dengue fever. It is widely distributed throughout New South Wales, with the exception of the south-eastern portion of the State. It is a domestic mosquito being prevalent both in and out of houses. It bites both during the day and night. It is easily recognised because of the white markings on its body.

It can transmit Yellow Fever also. However, although no case of Yellow Fever has yet reached Australia, in these days of fast aerial travel the danger is always present.

### Control

- Prevention is the keynote.
- Know their breeding places and eliminate them, or if this is not possible suitably treat them.
- Continuity of effort is more important than an intense campaign of eradication followed by a period of neglect.
- Protection from bites by use of repellent insecticides and mosquito nets.

### Treatment of Breeding Places

Roof gutters, rain spouts and drains should be kept clean and free from standing water. Old tins, bottles, broken crockery, flower pots or other disused articles capable of holding water should be collected and buried.

Shallow water pools and slushy places should be obliterated by draining or filling them in. All gully traps should be frequently flushed.

All water storage tanks and septic tanks must be effectively screened by wire gauze screens of not less than 18 meshes to the inch.

Water in open tanks, ponds, etc., should be treated with kerosene or liquid paraffin so as to form a complete layer of oil over the surface of the water. This will kill all larvae present.