The Asian Tiger Mosquito Profile

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Aedes albopictus*

**APPEARANCE:** Black mosquito with striking white markings on the body and legs.

**PERSONALITY:** Very aggressive. Bites during the day. The primary nuisance mosquito in Fairfax County.

**HER FAVORITE MEAL:** Human blood — though she will feed on other mammals and birds.

**PREFERRED BREEDING SITES:** Artificial containers that hold water for seven days or more. These can be as big as an abandoned swimming pool or as small as a bottle cap. Other places she may lay her eggs include: tires, discarded paper cups, flowerpots and black corrugated drain pipes.

**DAYTIME HANGOUT:** Anywhere cool and shady. Ivy, azaleas and bushes are among her favorite resting places.

**HEALTH RISK:** While the Asian tiger mosquito may play a role in West Nile virus transmission in the U.S., surveillance data indicates that the risk of infection from this mosquito is low in Fairfax County.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:** Asian tiger mosquitoes are not strong flyers and typically will not travel far from their breeding habitats. However, females searching for a blood meal will fly from house to house within a neighborhood. Asian tiger mosquitoes do not respect property borders or garden fences.
THREE EASY STEPS TO A MOSQUITO-FREE HOME

1. Eliminate Mosquito Breeding Sites

- Female Asian tiger mosquitoes lay their eggs in artificial containers.
- Empty water out of containers at least once a week. Look for containers in hidden places such as under decks and behind sheds. Also check tarps for standing water.
- Treat containers that cannot be emptied (such as gutters or abandoned pools) with an insecticide that specifically targets mosquito larvae. Look for products such as Mosquito Dunks®, sold in garden centers and hardware stores.
- Ensure that corrugated drain pipes are placed correctly so that they do not hold water. If pipes are above ground, empty them once a week. Otherwise, place a Mosquito Dunk® inside the pipe to prevent mosquitoes breeding. Replace the Dunks® once a month during mosquito season. Use a piece of string to attach the dunk to the pipe or gutter to prevent it from being washed away during heavy rains.

2. Protect Yourself from Bites

- Wear long, light-colored, and loose-fitting clothing to avoid mosquito bites.
- Apply an insect repellent to exposed skin when outdoors.
- The Fairfax County Disease Carrying Insects Program recommends products containing the active ingredients DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus based on information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Make sure that you choose — and use — the repellent that works best for you.
- Do not allow young children to apply insect repellent to themselves. Always have an adult help them.
- Remember to read and follow the label instructions when using insect repellents.

3. Defend Your Garden

- A permethrin barrier spray to your yard will provide temporary relief from biting adult mosquitoes.
- Permethrin is an insecticide that both repels and kills mosquitoes. It has low human toxicity and is readily available in garden centers and hardware stores. When looking for permethrin products, make sure to check the labeling — permethrin is the name of the active ingredient, not the product brand name.
- Permethrin products that come with a manual pump spray or a hose attachment are the easiest to apply.
- Apply permethrin to ivy, shrubs, trees, ornamental grasses, and to any other plants where Asian tiger mosquitoes are resting. Permethrin will not harm your garden plants.
- Reapply as needed depending on mosquito presence and rainfall.
- Remember to always read and follow the label instructions.