

2025 has seen varying trends in mosquito populations in Beaver County. This year has been a particularly viral year for West Nile virus across the United States and in Beaver County. As of the end of August, Beaver County has reported 64 West Nile virus positive results in mosquito surveillance throughout the county. Now, as the weather begins to change and the autumn season approaches, we are seeing a shift in mosquito populations. With the longer dry conditions of August, we are seeing an increase in a particular species of mosquito, *Aedes albopictus* (the tiger mosquito). Although the tiger mosquito isn't a competent vector for West Nile virus transmission in our area, it is a nuisance species.

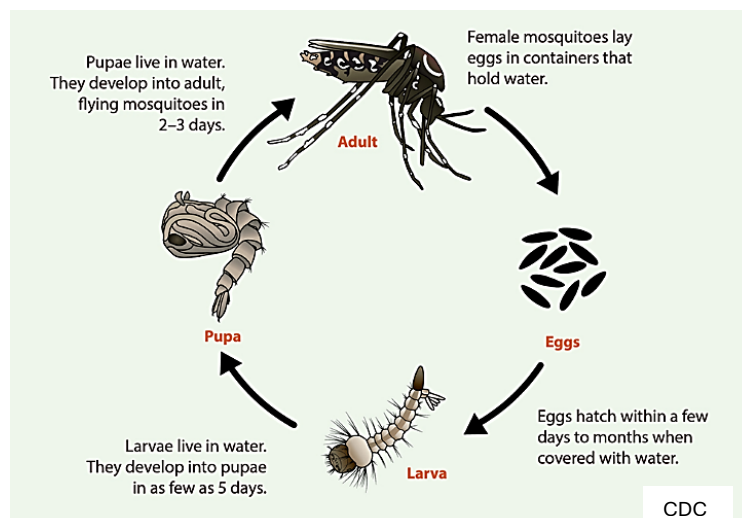
The tiger mosquito is active during the day and is an avid human biter. They bite aggressively, especially around the ankles and legs of humans. They are smaller mosquitoes but are easy to identify with their black coloration with white stripes.



Courtesy Central Mass Mosquito Control Project

Aedes species prefer cryptic, dark, or shady locations and do not fly very long distances. The females lay eggs in small amounts of water, preferring artificial containers such as tires, plastic containers, flowerpots, vases, bottle caps, and can be found in corrugated downspouts and gutters around homes. Due to their ability to breed in small, out-of-the way places, it is more difficult to locate larvae and eliminate their habitat.

Aedes species life cycle consists of four stages, egg, larvae, pupae, and adult.





Aedes albopictus life stages. Courtesy Colin Purrington

In the summer months, they can develop from egg to adult in 7-10 days. They are multivoltine, many generations throughout the year, and can survive longer in the season than other species. *Aedes albopictus* can be found into late October or later in Beaver County or until temperatures are below freezing for a prolonged period of time. Female *Aedes* species lay eggs along the walls of containers above the waterline and larval emergence occurs after rainfall raises the water level in the container.



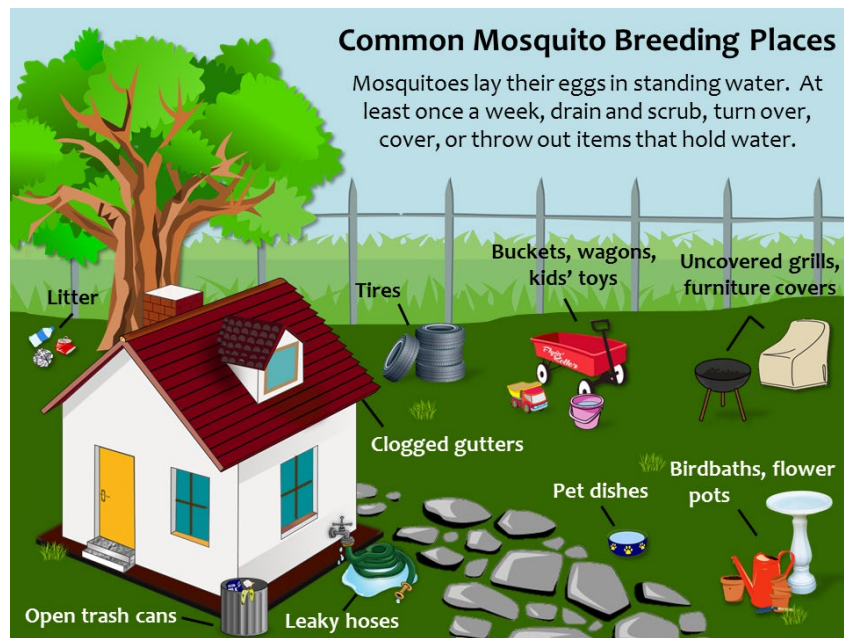
Image of *Aedes* eggs in container above waterline.
Courtesy of Cornell University



Image of *Aedes* eggs in container.
Courtesy of Mosquitoes in Oklahoma Dr. Russell Wright,
Prof. Emeritus.

Aedes eggs are individual eggs, black in coloration, oval shaped, and are extremely small, with a length of 0.5 mm (.02 inch). Eggs can withstand desiccation for up to one year.

Since it is difficult to find breeding areas on personal property, residents are encouraged to empty and remove artificial containers, aerate ponds, and clean birdbaths and outdoor pet bowls. Dispose of unused tires that may hold water, maintain swimming pools, inspect trash containers for water and eliminate debris and refuse from personal property. Routinely scan gutters and corrugated downspouts for stagnant water and organic debris, *Aedes albopictus* can breed in a very small amount of water. Residents can also minimize harborage areas for mosquitoes by maintaining lawns and keeping grass cut at a short length.



Personal protection during outdoor activities is strongly encouraged to minimize exposure to mosquito bites. Protective measures like wearing light-colored clothing with long sleeved shirts, long pants, socks, and other clothing items to cover exposed skin and the use of EPA approved insect repellents during outdoor activities helps reduce the risk of mosquito bites. It is recommended to use repellents that contain DEET for optimum protection.

Using preventative measures against mosquitoes and their breeding habitat decreases the presence of mosquitoes, pest nuisance, and the risk of diseases like West Nile Virus. For more information on choosing insect repellent, please visit the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-repellent-right-you

For more information, visit our website www.beavercountyconservationdistrict.org