



## LAKE COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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### NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### VECTOR CONTROL REMINDERS FOR A HEALTHY, HAPPY SPRING

LAKEPORT, Calif. – Spring is here and the Lake County Vector Control District has a few reminders to help you make this summer more enjoyable for you and your family.

#### **Mosquitoes**

Recent rains have filled Clear Lake as well as the containers in our yards. Mosquitoes need still water to grow. Dump out any water from your wheelbarrows, boats, gardening pots and planters, and tarps. Also remember to look for water in your children’s toys like wagons, pails, and wading pools and dump those out, too.

The District has been treating for immature mosquitoes to reduce the number of biting adults in the coming weeks. Spraying for biting mosquitoes started this week. If you are being bit by mosquitoes, you can request help by calling the Lake County Vector Control District at (707) 263-4770 or online at [www.LCVCD.org](http://www.LCVCD.org).

#### **Mosquitofish will be available in May**

If you have animal stock tanks, water gardens, fountains, or plan to take a break from maintaining your pool or spa, then stop by the Lake County Vector Control District’s main office to pick up mosquito-eating fish. Please call first to make sure that we have fish available. If you picked up mosquitofish in past years, then you may still have them! Mosquitofish hibernate in the cooler months but come out again when the sun is out and the water warms up. Look for them on warmer days when the sun is warming the water where they live.

#### **Yellowjacket Wasps**

Did you have yellowjackets crash your BBQ last year? Yellowjacket wasps, also known as “meat bees” can become pests as their colonies grow large in the summer. You can prevent new yellowjacket colonies by setting out yellowjacket traps now to catch the queens. Every queen yellowjacket you catch now prevents thousands of her offspring from pestering you this summer! If you find an underground nest of yellowjacket wasps in your yard, we can treat that for you at no charge (we cannot treat for paper wasps, honey bees, or any wasps nesting in a building or structure). Call (707) 263-4770 or visit our website [www.LCVCD.org](http://www.LCVCD.org).

#### **What about the Rice Flies?**

Rice flies is the local name for the chironomid midges that emerge several times a year from Clear Lake. The good news is that rice flies are harmless and cannot bite. They spend most of their lives as bloodworms in the squishy mud at the bottom of Clear Lake until they become adult rice flies and emerge by the millions. We usually notice them resting on buildings during the day, swarming near dusk and dawn, or flying around lights at night. Each rice fly dies 2-3 days after emerging—just long enough to mate and lay a batch of eggs—they don’t even eat anything! During an emergence, more rice flies come out of the lake every day to replace the ones that died. Most rice fly emergences last 7-10 days, but may be affected by weather and water temperatures. We don’t recommend using pesticides to control rice flies because they will die in less than 3 days (unlike mosquitoes that live for weeks or even months!).

**What is Vector Control?**

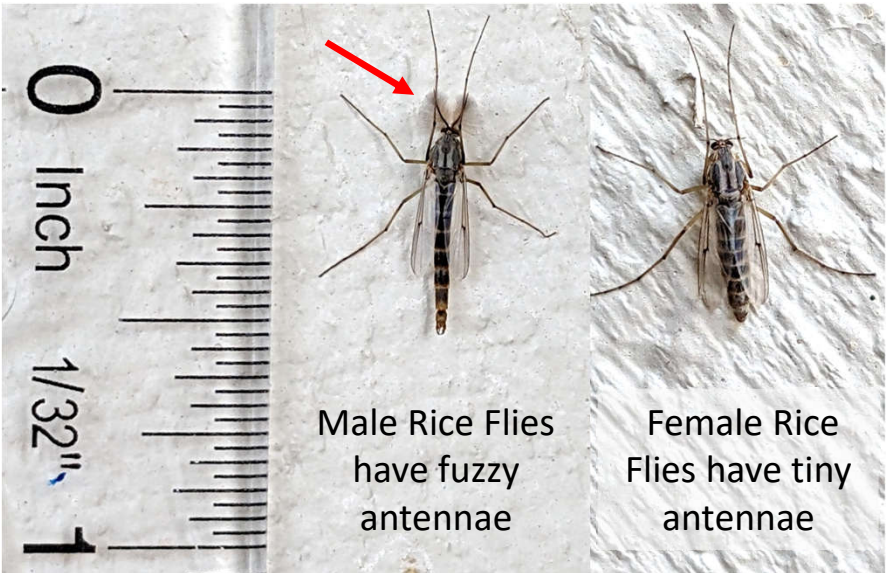
The Lake County Vector Control District is an Independent Special District that conducts surveillance and control of mosquitoes, West Nile virus, and other vectors and the diseases they transmit. The Lake County Vector Control District's Board of Trustees meets at 1:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at 410 Esplanade, Lakeport, CA. All meetings are open to the public.

Residents with questions or who would like help with a mosquito problem, including reporting a neglected pool or spa, or who have an in-ground yellowjacket nest on their property that they would like treated, should contact the Lake County Vector Control District at (707) 263-4770 or submit a request [www.LCVCD.org](http://www.LCVCD.org).

For more information about West Nile virus or to report a dead bird, visit [westnile.ca.gov](http://westnile.ca.gov). Information about mosquito repellents can be found on the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at [www.cdc.gov/westnile/faq/repellent](http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/faq/repellent). ½

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<b>Rice Fly</b>	<b>vs</b>	<b>Mosquito</b>
<p>Rice flies are about ½" long and tan to brown.</p> <p>They rest flat on walls and other surfaces.</p> <p>They are usually found in large numbers (dozens to thousands).</p>	<p><b>What do they look like?</b></p>	<p>Mosquitoes are between ⅛" to ¼" long, and may be gray to brown to black. Some species have stripes or bands of white or tan on their legs.</p> <p>Their bodies do not touch the wall when they are resting.</p> <p>They are usually seen in small numbers (fewer than 20)</p>
<p>Rice fly larvae, also called "bloodworms" live in the soft squishy layer of mud at the bottom of Clear Lake</p>	<p><b>Where do they grow?</b></p>	<p>Mosquito larvae swim near the surface of all kinds of still or standing water, including water troughs, tarps, boats, ponds, wetlands, salt marshes, buckets, toys, wheelbarrows, unmaintained pools and spas, and even in water-filled treeholes!</p>
<p>Resting on walls, cars, or windows (during the day)</p> <p>Flying in a swarm in one place (near dusk and dawn)</p> <p>Flying around a light (at night)</p>	<p><b>What are they doing when I notice them?</b></p>	<p>Flying around me</p> <p>Landing on me</p> <p>Biting me</p>
<p>Lights at night</p>	<p><b>What attracts them?</b></p>	<p>You!</p> <p>Specifically, the carbon dioxide you exhale every time you breathe.</p>
<p>No! Rice flies cannot bite. They have no mouthparts and don't feed as adults.</p>	<p><b>Can they bite?</b></p>	<p>Yes. Female mosquitoes bite because they need the protein in blood to make their eggs.</p> <p>Male mosquitoes cannot bite.</p> <p>Both male and female mosquitoes feed on nectar and fruit juice for energy to fly.</p>
<p>A rice fly adult lives for less than 72 hours. They mate, females lay eggs, and then they die.</p> <p>During an emergence, new rice flies emerge every day replacing the ones that died the day before.</p>	<p><b>How long do they live?</b></p>	<p>An average female mosquito lives for 4-6 weeks, but some can survive for several months!</p>



**Rice Flies Photo Caption:**

Chironomid midges, locally known as “rice flies,” are emerging from Clear Lake. If you live near the lake, you have probably noticed them resting on the sides of buildings or flying around lights at night. They are harmless and cannot bite. Each rice fly adult lives less than 3 days—only long enough to mate and lay eggs.

