



WEST VALLEY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL



The Valley Buzz!

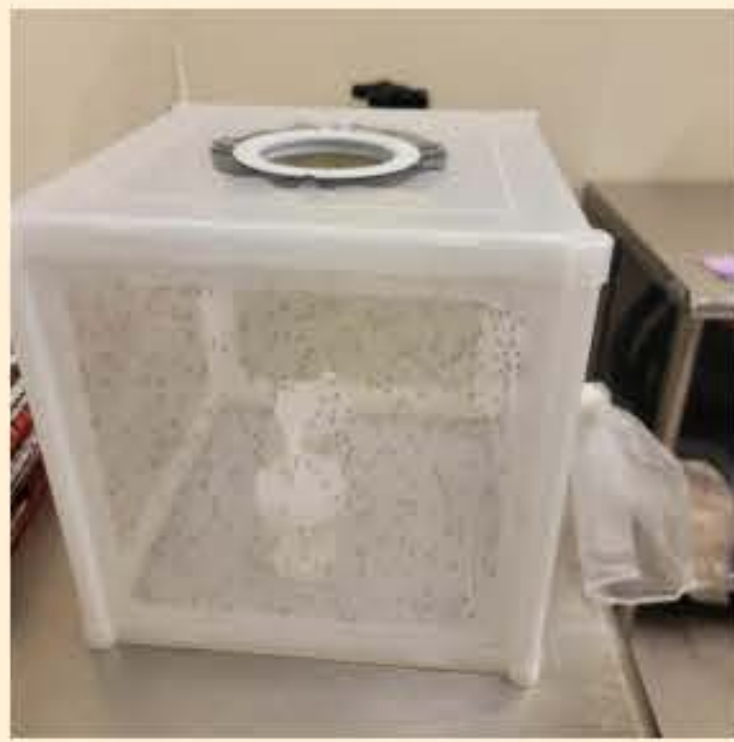
SIT Update

We have been working hard rearing and releasing sterile males to combat *Aedes aegypti*, with impressive results.

As we continue to expand this part of our Integrated Pest Management program, we want our residents to be aware and prepared if sterile males are released in your area.

1. Male mosquitoes DO NOT bite. We utilize this to our advantage, releasing males will not increase your chances of being bit.
2. Sterile males will seek shelter and shade when first released. Residents may notice more mosquitoes in areas like porches, garages, or in bushes a day or two after we release the sterile males.
3. When sterile males are released, keep garage doors closed, entry doors closed, and be sure that window screens are in good shape with no holes, dents, or kinks that would allow mosquitoes entry.
4. Once the sterile males get their bearings, they will dissipate and begin searching for females. Please be patient with them, they will help reduce the biting mosquitoes in your area shortly!

Sterile male releases will not instantly reduce populations, but our data shows that they are making significant reductions. Be sure to call us if you are experiencing issues with mosquitoes so we can get our technical staff out to your neighborhood and determine how best to help you!



Preparing male mosquitoes and releasing them in "hotspot" neighborhoods

In2Care stations, Long-Term Mosquito Reduction

With almost 300 In2care stations placed throughout the district, residents may have encountered one of these or even have one in their yards.

In2Care stations are an attract and kill device, they work by tricking egg-laying females into depositing their eggs into the water-filled cavity. A great thing about the stations is that they are attractive to both invasive *Aedes* and native mosquitoes! The females deposit eggs on special cotton, and there they pick up a pesticide that they can transfer to other water sources. Eggs laid in the station hatch and are killed by a pesticide in the water.

There are a few things to remember about hosting an In2Care station at your home. The District places the stations in the front yards so District technicians can visit every 4 weeks to monitor and service the stations. Don't worry though, they are designed attract mosquitoes from a wide area, including the backyard. Speaking of attracting, you may see a lot of mosquitoes swarming around it. That is exactly what you want! The more females that are trying to get into the station, the more mosquito reduction you will see in the following days!



An In2Care station placed at a home

The Proboscis: Biting the Hand That Feeds!

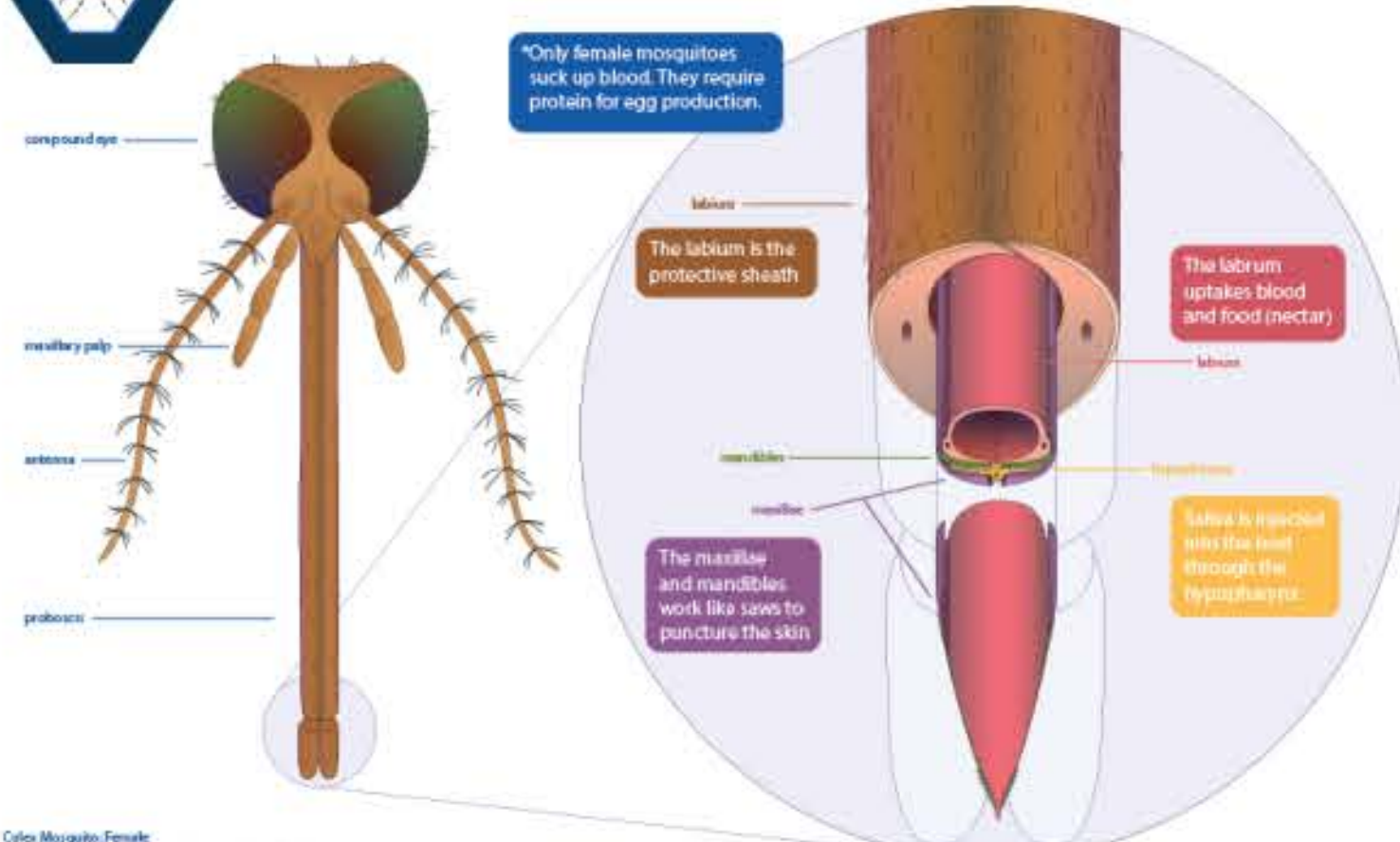
Only the female mosquitoes bite? Both the males and the females drink nectar and plant juices for sustenance, but the females need some proteins in animal blood to make eggs. Most folks think of a mosquito's mouth, or proboscis, as a needle or straw, but it is much more complicated!

A mosquito's proboscis is actually constructed of six different parts. Some parts actually pierce the skin (maxilla and mandibles) while others suck up the blood and inject saliva into our bodies (hypopharynx and labrum).

The injection of saliva into our bodies is why mosquitoes are so good at transmitting diseases, those little "germs" hitch a ride in the saliva and get injected right into us! Our bodies produce a histamine reaction to the saliva, which is why we get that irritating red bump. That seems like a pretty good reason to wear mosquito repellent wouldn't you say?!



Virus Transmission: Mouthparts



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A close-up of female mosquito mouthparts

