



## *The Valley Buzz!*

### **DIY mosquito traps – Likely More Harm than Help**

Our technicians are out in the community daily searching for mosquitoes and communicating with our residents. Lately, they have been seeing an increase in home-made mosquito traps and deterrent devices. As frustration from dealing with mosquito bites and the access to internet "life hacks" increases, making one's own mosquito-killing machine is tempting.

Some DIY traps consist of 5-gallon buckets filled with stagnant water (sometimes with a BTi pesticide added, others with screens placed over the tops in an attempt to stop adults from flying out), plastic soda bottles (a variation of housefly traps), and box fans modified with screen mesh – supposedly to create a wind-powered "spiderweb"!

Many of these are loosely based on sound science but miss the mark in execution. Another major pitfall with these, especially the bucket traps, is maintenance. If not maintained and monitored, these buckets have the potential to attract and produce enormous amounts of mosquitoes.

Traps placed by the District are monitored and maintained by trained and certified personnel on a strict schedule to ensure their effectiveness and are tested and certified by EPA and California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

While DIY can be a rewarding project for home improvements, it's best to leave the mosquito trapping to the professionals!



A DIY bucket trap - the "donut" in the middle is a BTi mosquito dunk

### **Temperatures lower, but mosquitoes are still active!**

While we seem to be past the worst of the heat, our lab staff are still collecting a fair amount of mosquitoes in surveillance traps across our cities. Recent rain, high nighttime temperatures, and increased humidity have spiked mosquito activity in the last few weeks as well. Until nighttime temperatures settle into the low 50 degrees Fahrenheit, we can expect to still be battling these little bloodsuckers!

Though we are on the way towards a decrease in mosquito activity, we urge our residents to keep up with wearing a CDC recommended repellent, keeping their area free of standing water, and calling us for help. Our Technicians and Laboratory staff are dedicated to finding the best methods for managing mosquitoes no matter how long they decide to stick around!



Laboratory Staff setting traps

### **Vector Control as a Resource for You:**



Our Outreach department is here for you as a source of information from the biology of mosquitoes to the best ways you can protect yourself from bites! We can provide you and your neighborhoods with printed materials, tips and advice on our website and social media channels, and presentations both on site and via web conferencing. Call us if you want to help spread the word on battling the bite!



Click the links above for more tips daily!

