



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE STATE RECLAMATION & MOSQUITO CONTROL BOARD



PLYMOUTH COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT

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2025 REPORT OF PLYMOUTH COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT

The Commissioners of the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project (PCMCP) are pleased to submit the following report of our activities during 2025.

The Project is a special district created by the State Legislature in 1957 and is composed of the 27 municipalities in Plymouth County and the Town of Cohasset. The Project is a regional response to a regional problem, and provides a way of organizing specialized equipment, specially trained employees, and mosquito control professionals into a single agency with a broad geographical area of responsibility.

In the spring, larviciding efforts begin as water temperatures rise and mosquito larvae begin to feed. The Project ground and aerial larvicided 13,217 acres and this was accomplished using an environmentally selective bacterial agent. Upon emergence of the spring brood of mosquitoes, ultra-low volume adulticiding began on June 2nd, 2025 and ended on September 19th, 2025. The Project responded to 13,992 requests for spraying and larval checks from residents covering all of the towns within the district.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) has developed an “Arbovirus Surveillance and Response Plan” for the state. The Plan creates a system which estimates the human risk for contracting Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus using several factors including the number of infected mosquitoes. Based on guidelines defined by the Plan, all towns in Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project started the season at “Remote/Low Risk Level” for Eastern Equine Encephalitis. At the end of the season the following towns were still at “Remote/Low Risk Level”: Cohasset, Duxbury, Kingston, Hingham, Hull, Marshfield, Marion, Mattapoisett, Pembroke, Plymouth, Rochester, Wareham, and Scituate. The following towns were at “Moderate Risk Level”: Brockton, Abington, Rockland, Hanover, Norwell, West Bridgewater, East Bridgewater, Whitman, Hanson, Bridgewater, Halifax, Plympton, Lakeville, Middleboro, and Carver. There were no human or animal cases of EEE in Plymouth County.

West Nile Virus activity was widespread in Massachusetts. Statewide there were 9 human cases, none of them were in Plymouth County. All towns started the season at the “Low Risk Level” for West Nile Virus. However, later in the season the human risk was raised to

moderate for all towns. As part of our West Nile Virus control strategy a total of 54,007 catch basins were treated with larvicide in member towns to prevent WNV.

The Project participates in DPH's mosquito surveillance program. As part of that program we collected 81,992 mosquitoes and submitted 19,277 mosquitoes for testing. The mosquitoes were combined into 542 groups or pools. DPH also tested 17,344 mosquitoes from the district. In all there were 11 isolations of EEEV from mosquito samples. EEEV was found in Bridgewater, Halifax, Rockland and Norwell. There was a total of 51 WNV isolations from Abington, Bridgewater, Brockton, Cohasset, East Bridgewater, Hanover, Hull, Kingston, Lakeville, Marion, Marshfield, Middleborough, Pembroke, Plymouth, Rockland, Scituate, and Whitman.

The health threat of EEE and WNV continues to ensure cooperation between the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project, local Boards of Health and the Department of Public Health. In an effort to keep the public informed, EEE and WNV activity updates are regularly posted on the Department of Public Health website.

The introduced mosquito *Aedes albopictus* has the potential to become a serious pest and a vector of disease. The mosquito has been present in Massachusetts since 2009. The larvae live in containers and are closely linked with human activity. They are especially associated with used tires. The Project began a tire recycling program in October 2017. During the 2025 season we recycled 1,111 tires bringing us to a total of 19,315 tires for the program.

The figures specific to the town of West Bridgewater are given below. While mosquitoes do not respect town lines the information given below does provide a tally of the activities which have had the greatest impact on the health and comfort of West Bridgewater residents.

Insecticide Applications: Our greatest effort has been targeted at mosquitoes in the larval stage, which can be found in woodland pools, swamps, marshes and other standing water areas. Field Technicians continually gather data on these sites and treat with highly specific larvicides when immature mosquitoes are present. In West Bridgewater 183 larval sites were checked.

During the summer 1,195 catch basins were treated in West Bridgewater to prevent the emergence of *Culex pipiens*, a known mosquito vector in West Nile Virus transmission.

Our staff treated 1,345.92 acres using truck mounted sprayers for control of adult mosquitoes. More than one application was made to the same site if mosquitoes reinvaded the area. The first treatments were made in June and the last in September.

Water Management: During 2025 crews removed blockages, brush and other obstructions from 3,519 linear feet of ditches and streams to prevent overflows or stagnation that can result in mosquito production. This work, together with machine reclamation, is most often carried out in the fall and winter.

Mosquito Survey: Our surveillance showed that the dominant mosquitoes throughout the district were generally *Cq. perturbans* and *Cx. pipiens/restuans*. In the Town of West Bridgewater the three most common mosquitoes were, *Cq. perturbans*, *Ae. vexans* and *Cs. melanura*.

Education and Outreach: Our Community Liaison, Erin Morrill, has given 45 presentations this year to various groups in the County. She has been reaching out to schools and daycares to update IPM plans in preparation for the upcoming mosquito season. In-person visits to local BOH's are ongoing. Educational presentations are given throughout the year, so if your town is interested in setting up a presentation at summer camps, schools, fairs, libraries, or councils on aging please contact our office.

Our Project website is a great resource for information on upcoming meetings, the annual budget, educational information, and Project services. Announcements and important dates can be found on the home page. Please visit us at www.plymouthmosquito.org or call our office with any matters of concern.

Sincerely,

Ross Rossetti

Ross Rossetti
Superintendent
01/12/26