

# DRAGON MOSQUITO CONTROL, INC.

## FALL UPDATE 2016

This is the driest year I recall in 37 years of mosquito control work. Many ponds and streams have dried up. Currently, nearly every mosquito habitat is dry. My pond is down by three or four feet. I'm fortunate to still have water in my pond. It has become a hub of activity for the turkeys, eagles, hawks, deer, raccoons, great blue herons and many other critters that leave their footprints in the mud along the edge. It must be getting crowded in that water for the fish, frogs, turtles and eels. Is anyone else praying for a hurricane? We need the water.

One silver lining of this extreme drought is fewer mosquitoes and ticks to bother us. That results in less disease activity too. As of 9-30-16, there has been one batch of mosquitoes from Nashua testing positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). There is no shortage of WNV in Massachusetts with 188 mosquito samples and six human cases to date. Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) has been found in four mosquito samples and no human or animal cases in Massachusetts this year. There has been no EEE activity in NH.

No mosquitoes have been found carrying ZIKA virus in NH. No new species of ZIKA mosquitoes have been detected in our state.

Always eliminate standing water on your property after a rainfall. Dump out water; turn over or remove containers that collect water every time it rains. The mosquitoes that hatch from man-made containers can carry WNV, EEE and ZIKA. There aren't many mosquitoes flying around now but ninety percent of the mosquitoes caught in our traps are potential carriers of EEE and WNV. It's important to avoid mosquito bites at this time of year.

The mosquito season will be drawing to a close soon. It will take a hard freeze to kill off the few remaining mosquitoes.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah MacGregor  
President  
Dragon Mosquito Control, Inc.