



GROW

Home, Garden & Outdoors

Seven places mosquitoes may be hiding

Wallowa County Chieftain

Spring has sprung, which means that mosquito season is almost here. These tiny insects could be living, flying and breeding right in your yard, and you might not even know it.

Mosquitoes aren't just a nuisance, they are also a health threat. Some species common in the United States can carry and spread Zika virus, Chikungunya virus, West Nile virus and canine heart worm. The first sign of mosquito activity is usually buzzing from female mosquitoes and their bites.

Where mosquitoes breed

Female mosquitoes can lay as many as 100 eggs at a time. They can lay eggs in just a few inches of standing water, making pinpointing breeding sites a challenge. To help homeowners, Entomologist Ron Harrison, Ph.D., reveals seven places mosquitoes like the most and offers advice on how to help keep them out of your yard.

- Gutters. If enough debris is left to collect over time, dirty gutters can clog up and create pockets of water perfect for



Courtesy of Getty images

Female mosquitoes can lay as many as 100 eggs at a time.

mosquito breeding. Cleaning gutters regularly to make sure water is flowing smoothly can help keep mosquitoes from breeding so close to your home.

- Toys. They are an often overlooked source of standing water, but toys can collect pockets of water and just a few inches is enough for a mosquito

to raise a family.

- Flower pots. Rainwater can collect in saucers under flower pots. If left to sit for days, the water becomes an excellent breeding spot for mosquitoes.
- Bird baths. Even though birds eat a variety of insects, standing water in bird baths left

unchecked for days at a time can become an oasis for female mosquitoes looking for a place to lay eggs. Inspect and change the water weekly to avoid an infestation.

- Rain barrels. If water is used within a few days, it will likely not be enough time to create a mosquito problem, but if water is left standing for mul-

tiples days, be prepared to find a hotbed of hungry pests.

- Plants. Some plants can hold water in their "mouths" and offer mosquitoes enough standing water to lay their eggs. Other shrubbery can serve as a hide-out for grown mosquitoes. In addition to blood, mosquitoes feed on nectar from flowers, so they often hide in shrub-

bery during the day. Thinning dense shrubbery to increase air flow can help reduce the number of adult mosquitoes in your yard.

- Tree cavities. Each year, cavities in tree stumps and trunks are filled with water by rainfall or melting ice and snow, and mosquitoes may choose these holes for breeding. While it can be difficult to remove the standing water, a licensed professional can help identify and treat these areas.
- Low points in the yard. Any areas lower than the rest of your yard may collect and hold standing water. Make note of these areas when patrolling and be sure to inspect and drain them if necessary.

Take back your yard

It's important to do a weekly inspection of your entire yard to locate and eliminate any standing water. It's also a good idea to encourage your neighbors to do the same so that mosquitoes aren't traveling from their yard to yours.

If you've done everything you can to help prevent mosquitoes and are still having problems, you may need a licensed professional.





CARPET ONE FLOOR & HOME

800 S River St. Enterprise, OR • 9am-5:30pm Monday - Friday • 9am-12pm Saturdays • 541-426-9228

Hardscaping can be easy

Wallowa County Chieftain

Hardscaping doesn't have to be hard at all. In fact, with a little creativity and sweat equity, hardscaping can be an enjoyable experience that adds serious style points to your home's outdoor areas.

So what is hardscaping? It involves all of the design elements on your property that aren't plants, grass or flowers. This sector of your landscaping strategy includes retaining walls, fire pits, decks, fences, paved walkways and sculptures.

Many hardscaping-specific specialty stores and contractors have popped up in recent years, as the practice has become big business. And because so many projects involve factors that can effect yard slope, water drainage and electrical add-ons, it may be your best bet to hire an accredited professional to help safely and compliantly achieve your outdoor vision.

Do it yourself

If you're feeling handy and confident in handling certain projects, you can certainly save some money in your budget by doing the work yourself. If you do decide to go the DIY route, there are some things to remember as you prepare.

Research is key. Watch tutorials, talk with trained professionals, ask your hardware specialist – feeling comfortable scouting out a project will help you cover



Courtesy photo

Natural stone landscaping in home garden with steps and flowerbeds.

your bases before you jump in.

Also, check with your municipality to see if you need a permit and to ensure that you're complying with local bylaws.

Cater to the space

Do you live in a country setting with ample space for outdoor additions? Or is your living situation more suburban with a limited yard? Either option can be greatly enhanced with strategically added touches.

Outdoor kitchens, family rooms, barbecue areas, fire pits and greenhouses can all be awe-inspiring additions, if space allows. Smaller quar-

ters may require only a stone walkway or outdoor sitting area to spruce things up.

Analyze your space to make an educated decision on your hardscaping plans.

Planning is key

When adding outdoor elements, it isn't necessary to build everything at once or incorporate all items at the same time.

As long as you have a plan for how the entire space will eventually be laid out, you can save yourself some time – and money – by waiting for great deals on certain items before purchasing them for your hardscaping purposes.

Member FDIC

We know *your* business makes *our* business.

Bank of Eastern Oregon

A path of possibilities.



Bob Williams
Loan Officer



John Bailey
Loan Officer



FREE DELIVERY to Wallowa County!

KitchenAid MAYTAG Whirlpool

ELGIN ELECTRIC CO.

43 N. 8th • Elgin
541-437-2054

Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sat. by appointment

nationwide
7 Billion Dollar Buying Power!

We're Proud To Be A Part Of The Largest Buying Organization In The Country. This Huge Buying Power Is Passed On To You By Means Of Lower Prices Every Day On The Finest Brand Name Products.



Wallowa County Nursery

Nursery: 541-426-8733
118 Fish Hatchery Lane,
Enterprise LCB#7818

Berries • Annuals • Perennials
Hanging Baskets • Color Bowls
Trees • Shrubs

Gift Certificates Available
Landscaping: 541-910-1905

EONI NURSERY & LANDSCAPING
EASTERN OREGON NURSERY & LANDSCAPING

Nursery: 541-962-0641
10707 Walton Rd, Island City

See us at both locations open 7 days a week