

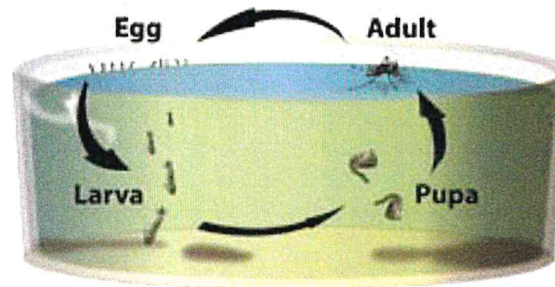
Background

The Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) is an aggressive biting mosquito that was brought to the United States during the 1980's in used truck tires shipped from Japan. Now it is found as far north as New York and in the south and southeastern United States, including North Carolina. There are **44** different types of mosquitoes in New Hanover County, but the Asian tiger mosquito is unique for the reasons listed below.

Asian Tiger Mosquito Characteristics

- They can transmit diseases such as West Nile virus, Zika virus, Chikungunya, and Dengue fever to humans; and heartworm to pets.
- It actively bites during the day, mostly in the early morning or late afternoon (before sunset).
- It lays eggs on the sides of man-made containers and in tree holes close to homes and businesses.
- Their eggs are not harmed by dry or cold weather and hatch when eggs are flooded in warmer months.
- They can be found around the house from late April through early November.
- It does not fly far and is most likely to be found close to its breeding place.
- It is a weak flyer (typically bites below the waist).
- It is a very small mosquito, measuring about 1/8 inch long.
- It has black and white stripes on its body and legs. There is a single white stripe down the center of its head and back. These stripes give it the name "tiger" mosquito.

Mosquito Life Cycle



- They need very little water to complete their life cycle (**only 1/8" of water**).
- Even small containers can produce **hundreds** of larvae.
- It takes **7-10 days** to go from egg to adult.
- One female mosquito can lay up to **500 eggs** in its lifetime.
- The average life expectancy of an adult mosquito is about **3 weeks**.
- It does not fly far, usually **less than 500 feet**. Therefore, if you have this mosquito, most likely it is coming from containers nearby.

Are spray trucks useful against the Asian tiger mosquito?

Mosquito spray trucks, or Ultra Low Volume cold foggers, are designed to work at night when temperatures are cooler. The Asian tiger mosquito prefers to fly during daylight hours. The **best** control strategy to battle the tiger mosquito is source reduction or "**TIP and TOSS**" all containers holding water around the house.

Personal Protection

- Apply insect repellents that contain an EPA registered active ingredient such as **DEET**, Picaridin, Oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535 which may prevent bites from mosquitoes and other biting insects. Follow label directions.
- Stay inside when mosquitoes are most active, usually at dawn and dusk. However, the Asian tiger mosquito is a day biter and is usually active in the early morning and late afternoon.
- Wear light-colored clothes that cover your arms and legs, especially when you have to be outside when mosquitoes are active.
- Keep mosquitoes from entering your home. Make sure screens/doors are repaired and are tight fitting and air conditioners work.



- By dumping the larvae from containers **every 5 days**, you will drastically reduce the adult Asian tiger mosquito population (**mosquito larvae cannot survive out of water**).