



Policy on Mosquito Control

THE TRUSTEES' POLICY ON MOSQUITO CONTROL

The Trustees of Reservations believes that there is no ecological benefit to mosquito control. The effects on ecosystems resulting from the removal of mosquito populations are not well documented. Further, the use of adulticides has been proven to pose a significant risk to the health of both humans and wildlife. Therefore, mosquito control will not be conducted on The Trustees' properties, except in the rare instances described in the guidelines below. In the event of a public health emergency as declared by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, The Trustees will fully cooperate with the mosquito control districts, allowing the district and its agents to employ appropriate control measures. These guidelines were developed after careful evaluation of the best available information regarding mosquito control in Massachusetts. These guidelines may be revised as new information or research becomes available.

1. The Trustees will be proactive in addressing mosquito control by practicing “good housekeeping” on its properties. This shall include simple sanitation measures to eliminate potential breeding sites such as clearing rain gutters and removing objects that may accumulate standing water.
2. The Trustees will work to set appropriate visitor expectations in regard to the perceived nuisance level of mosquitoes at its properties experiencing high levels of *both* visitor use and mosquito activity. Methods of conveying information may include The Trustees' web site or postings on bulletin boards at property entrances.
3. On its properties that host outdoor events (e.g., weddings) The Trustees may use carbon dioxide- expelling traps or other similar devices that target mosquitoes specifically, provided they do not utilize chemicals or alter habitat. (Note: Bug zappers do not meet this criteria.)
4. The Trustees prohibits the use of adulticides on any of its properties, except in the event of a public health emergency.
5. The Trustees prohibits the use of larvicides on its properties, except in the situation detailed below (see 6b).
6. The Trustees acknowledge that because of the salt marsh mosquito's wide range and aggressive behavior, uncontrolled breeding on our salt marshes may lead to increased use of adulticides - and greater ecological impact - beyond our property

boundaries. Thus, where the organization has agreed that uncontrolled mosquito breeding in salt marsh on its property is significantly contributing to off-site nuisance control measures, The Trustees will consider one of the following:

- a) The Trustees will work with the local mosquito control district to design and implement Open Marsh Water Management (OMWM) on salt marshes that had previously been ditched for mosquito control and that have been demonstrated to be a current significant source of mosquitoes. This technique will only be considered, however, if Trustees' ecologists determine there will be other ecological benefits, aside from mosquito control, resulting from restoration of the marsh hydrology. OMWM will not be implemented on salt marshes that have never been ditched, or for nuisance control alone.
- b) The Trustees will consider the application of Bti on its salt marshes that are not under OMWM if Trustees' ecologists determine there will be no significant ecological impact, and if the marsh has been demonstrated to be a significant source of mosquitoes.