

NORTHWEST MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

Keeping the community safe

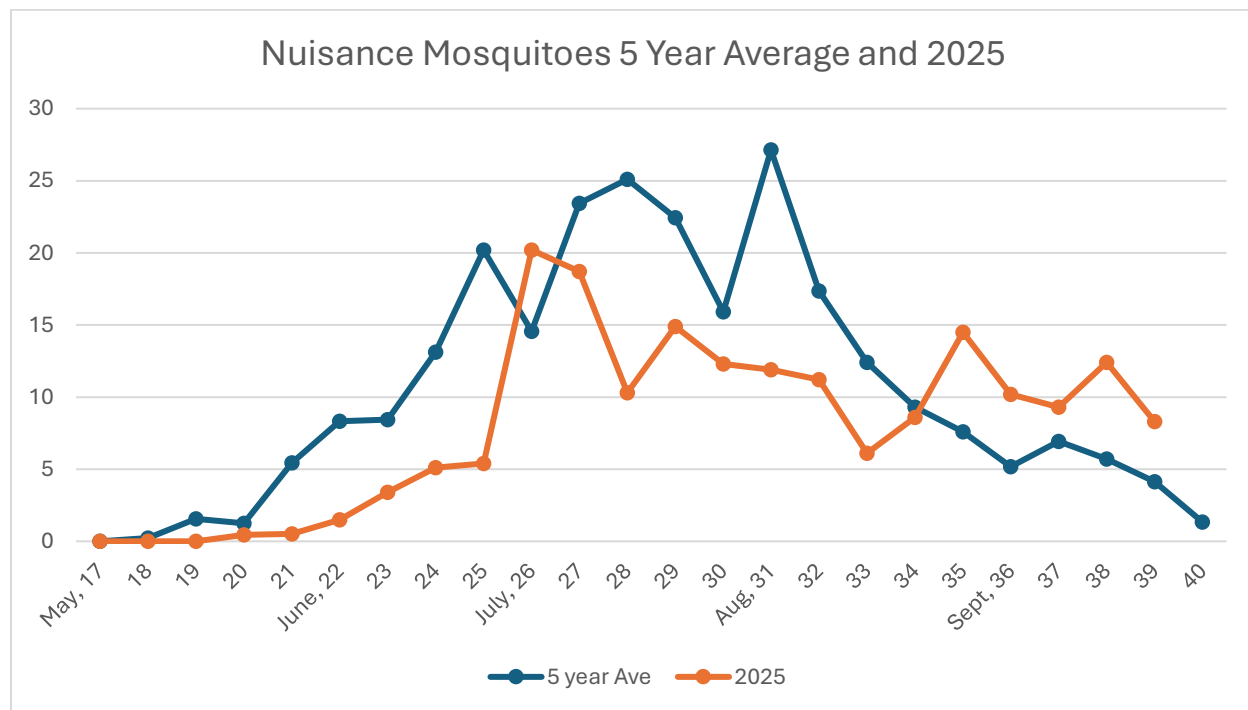
Weekly mosquito report for week 39 (Sept 22 through Sept 28).

Mosquito Surveillance:

Northwest Mosquito Abatement District operates 31 mosquito traps throughout the 242 square miles we cover. These traps help us track mosquito populations and West Nile virus. Traps run continuously from May 1 until October, and mosquitoes are collected everyday Monday through Friday. All mosquitoes are identified to species. We test certain mosquito species for the presence of West Nile virus.

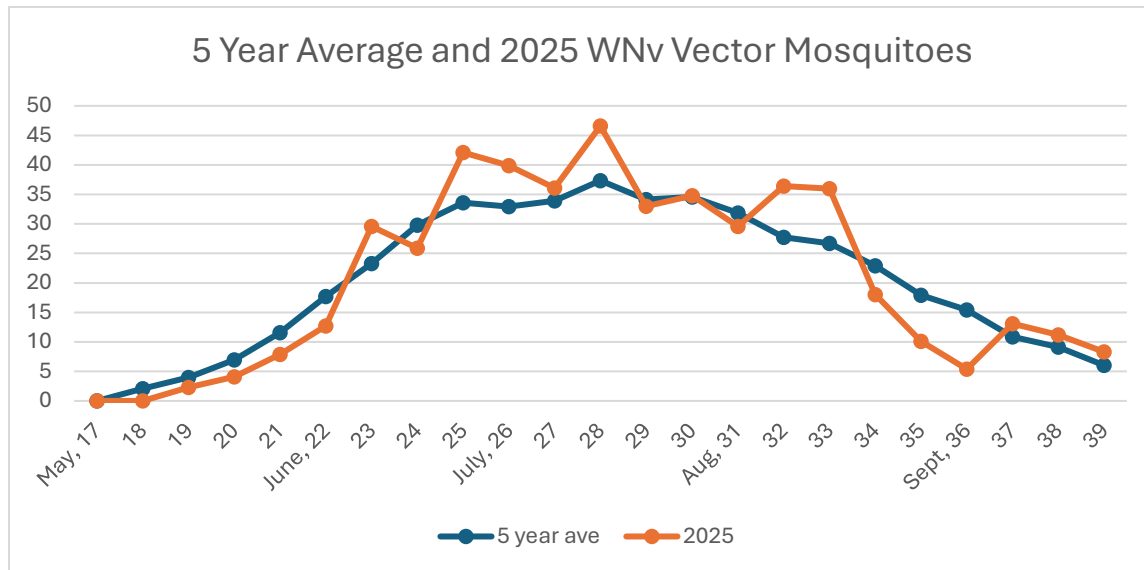
Floodwater/nuisance mosquitoes.

These are the species of mosquitoes which are more likely to take blood meals from humans. These species come out 5-10 days after rainfall. These species populations tend to be higher in the late spring and early summer – historically peaking around the beginning of July. These mosquitoes live for about 2 weeks and tend to prefer shady forest areas.



West Nile virus vector mosquitoes.

There are two main species of WNV vector mosquitoes, *Culex pipiens* and *Culex restuans*. These species prefer to feed on birds (which are the reservoir hosts for WNV) but will feed on humans opportunistically. In general, we tend to see the population of these mosquitoes increase during drought-like conditions



West Nile virus detection in mosquitoes.

In our lab we test most, if not all, WNV vector mosquitoes for West Nile virus daily. From this data we can calculate the risk of transmission (Vector Index), allow us to monitor the infection rate over time, and better inform our field operations on where to focus our abatement. We tested 38 batches of mosquitoes last week and had 2 WNV positives. The Vector Index for the district is 0.03

VI Range	Risk
0.0 - 0.2	Very low
0.21 - 0.99	Low
1.0 - 1.99	Moderate
> 2.0	High

Village	Tested this week	Positive pools for week	Total pools tested	Total positive pools season
Arlington Heights	6	0	148	34
Buffalo Grove	3	0	96	32
Barrington	1	0	108	19
Bartlett	0	0	52	7
Des Plaines	2	0	59	4
Elk Grove	3	0	163	43
Elgin	2	0	81	9
Glenview	4	1	66	12
Hoffman Estates	4	0	147	29
Northbrook	7	0	196	40
Palatine	1	0	51	10
Prospect Heights	1	0	51	8
Park Ridge	8	1	215	64
Rolling Meadows	1	0	106	30
Schaumburg	3	1	73	8
Streamwood	0	0	21	2
Total	37	2	1626	351

Tick Surveillance

Fall tick season is beginning. We start to see adult deer ticks in the beginning of October. This past week we found 2 adult deer ticks while surveying 7,500 meters of FPD trails. This is a good time to remind people to take precautions, especially when walking in forested areas.

Powassan virus (POWV) is a **rare but serious tick-borne virus** transmitted by infected blacklegged ticks (also known as deer ticks), the same species that spread Lyme disease. Unlike Lyme, Powassan

is **viral**, not bacterial, and **can be transmitted in as little as 15 minutes** after a tick bite.

Prevention Tips

- Use tick repellents like **DEET, Permethrin, or Picaridin**.
- Wear long sleeves and pants when outdoors.
- Perform **tick checks** after outdoor activities.
- Avoid wooded and brushy areas with high grass.