NORTHWEST MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

Keeping the community safe

Weekly mosquito report for epidemiological week 19 (May 4 – May 10).

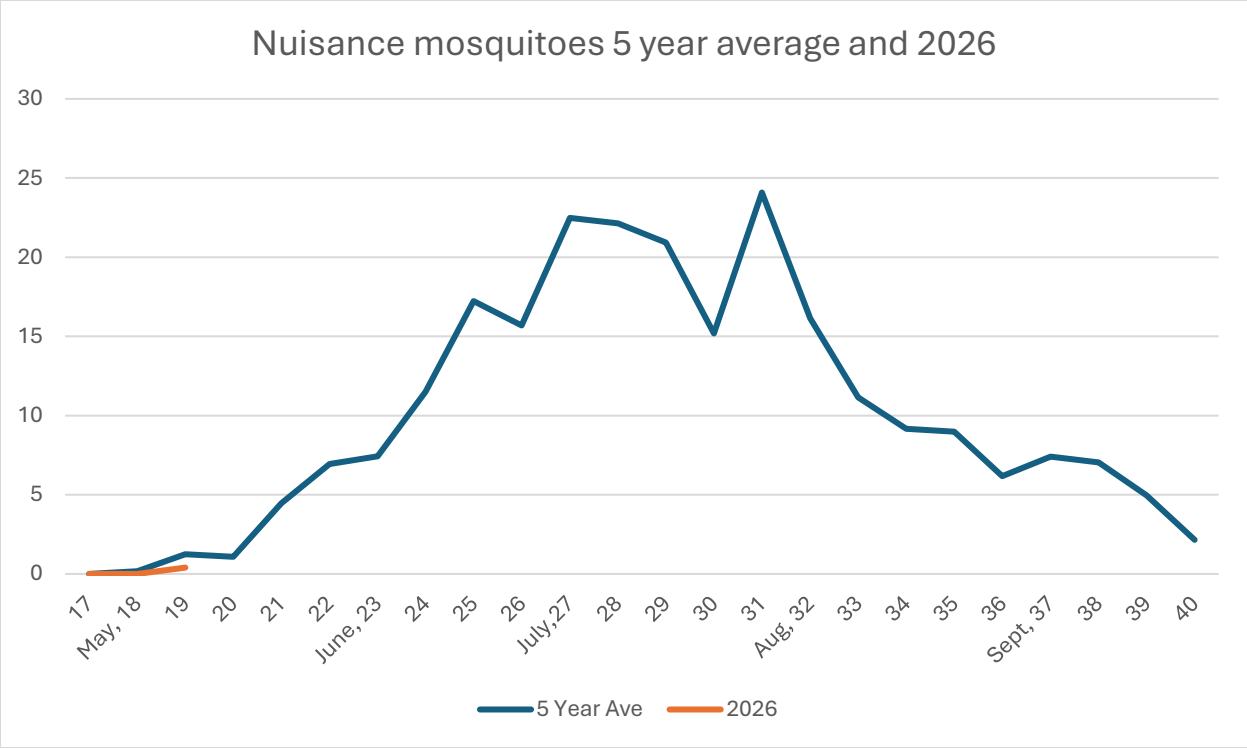
Mosquito Surveillance:

Northwest Mosquito Abatement District operates 36 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 the species level. We test certain mosquito species for the presence of West Nile virus.

Floodwater/nuisance mosquitoes.

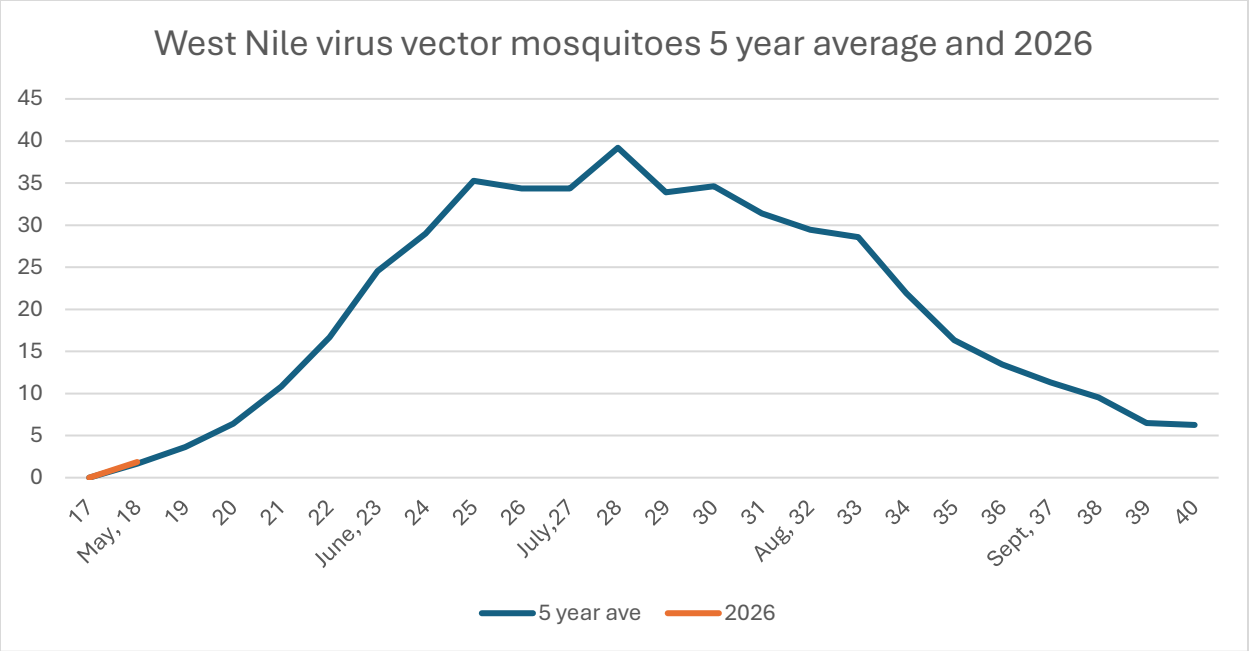
These are the species of mosquitoes which are more likely to take blood meals from humans. These species come out 5-10 days after rainfall. These species populations tend to be higher in the late spring and early summer – historically peaking around the beginning of July. These mosquitoes live for about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

While we have a lot of standing water due to all the rain this spring the cooler weather, especially at night, has prevented the emergence of these floodwater/nuisance mosquitoes. This could change if we start seeing higher temperatures.



West Nile virus vector mosquitoes.

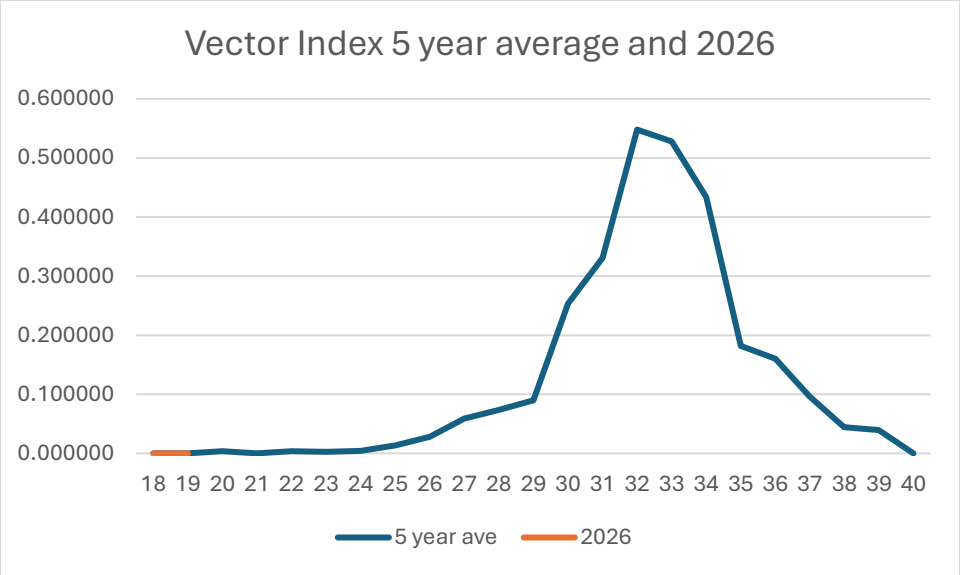
There are two main species of WNv vector mosquitoes, *Culex pipiens* and *Culex restuans*. These species prefer to feed on birds (which are the reservoir hosts for WNv) but will feed on humans opportunistically. In general, we tend to see the population of these mosquitoes increase during drought-like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



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 10 batches of mosquitoes last week and had 0 WNv positives. The Vector Index for the district is 0.00

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



Mosquito Abatement Activities

The District has about 80,000 storm water catch basins which are the primary habitat for the aquatic stages of West Nile virus vector mosquitoes. We also have approximately 10,000 above ground aquatic sources where other species of mosquitoes may be found.

To date we have treated 7,681 catch basins.

Tick Surveillance

The spring tick season began this year at the end of February. So far this year we have found over 500 adult deer ticks during 5 while conducting surveillance along Forest Preserve District trails (. These ticks can transmit Lyme disease (historically, 44% of our ticks have tested positive for Lyme disease. In the past two weeks we have been seeing more dog ticks. This is a good time to remind people to take precautions, especially when walking in forested areas.

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.

- Walk in the center of hiking trails, not along the edge.