

# The Asian Tiger Mosquito!!



Have you ever been outside during the day in summer, just enjoying your yard and you get bitten by a mosquito?! If you have, it was probably the Asian Tiger Mosquito!

*Aedes albopictus* aka Asian Tiger Mosquito is a nuisance mosquito in Beaver County. Although this mosquito is not known for transmitting disease in our area, it is a vector for viruses such as Zika and Dengue in other areas of the world. Though *Aedes albopictus* is labeled a nuisance problem in our area, they are still a concern as populations are rising throughout the county.

The Asian Tiger Mosquito is active during the day and are aggressive biters. This mosquito has adapted well to urban areas where there is greater access to breeding areas and greater populations (more people to bite!).

*Aedes albopictus* is a small mosquito and is identified by its black coloration and white stripes on the legs. It prefers dark, shady locations and does not fly very long distances.

The females lay eggs in very small amounts of water, preferring artificial containers such as tires, plastic containers, flowerpots, vases, and downspouts and gutters around homes. They can even breed in something as small as a bottle cap!



Courtesy CDC



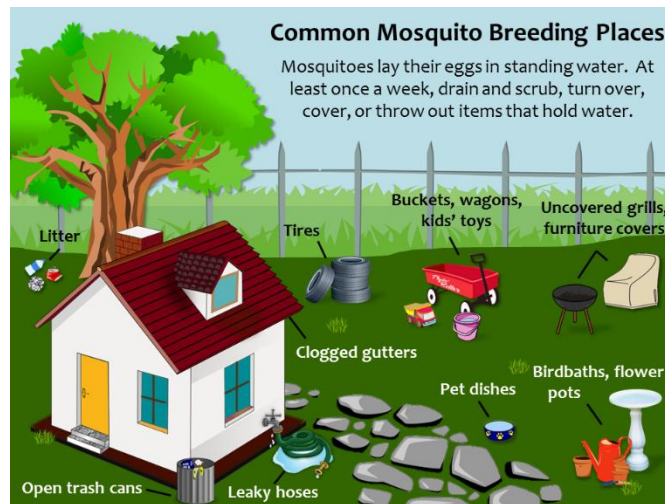
*Aedes* eggs are individual eggs, black in coloration, oval shaped, and are extremely small, with a length of 0.5 mm (.02 inch).

In the summer months, they can develop from egg to adult in 7-10 days. They are multivoltine, many generations throughout the year, and can survive longer in the season than other species. *Aedes albopictus* can be found into late October or later in Beaver County or until temperatures are below freezing for a prolonged period.

Female *Aedes* species lay eggs along the walls of containers above the waterline and larval emergence occurs after rainfall raises the water level in the container. *Aedes* species can lay up to 100 eggs at one time.

Since these mosquitoes are prolific breeders and can breed in so many areas (in urban areas especially), it is important to eliminate any possible breeding area habitats. It is encouraged to empty and remove artificial containers from properties that may hold water for longer periods of time. Other considerations are:

- Aerate ponds (mosquitoes prefer stagnant water, moving water discourages mosquitoes from laying eggs).
- Empty and clean outdoor containers that hold water such as birdbaths and pet bowls.
- Maintain swimming pools.
- Inspect trash containers for water and remove water from buckets, wheelbarrows, tarps, and other items that may hold water after a rain event.
- Routinely check gutters and corrugated downspouts for stagnant water and organic debris.



For more information on *Aedes albopictus* in Beaver County, check out our report “*Aedes albopictus* in Beaver County, Pennsylvania”.

For the report and additional information on mosquitoes and West Nile Virus, please visit our website.

[www.beavercountyconservationdistrict.org](http://www.beavercountyconservationdistrict.org)

