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May 2023  
Monthly Update

Recent research shows a way to discourage mosquitoes could be using the right soap. In the study, three of the four soaps increased mosquito attraction while one decreased appeal. All of the soaps had a fruity or flowery scent. If you're looking for an edge when it comes to reducing mosquito bites, switching to coconut scented soap could help. If you don't want to switch soaps, then using the right insect repellent and other preventive actions can discourage mosquitoes, ticks and other biting insects from landing on you. To find the right repellent, try the EPA tool at <https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/>.

Dragon continues working to reduce the disease carrying mosquito population. Crews have spent May in a variety of woodland habitats where we can reduce the number of mosquitoes that may carry Jamestown Canyon Virus or Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). Catch basins treatments target West Nile Virus mosquitoes.

During May, Dragon has:

- Checked wetlands for mosquito larvae
- Responded to house call requests to check for mosquito larvae in wet areas
- Treated wetlands when necessary with Bti
- Monitored catch basins for larval mosquito activity
- Mapped no-spray requests
- Repaired, repainted and set out greenhead fly traps on salt marshes

Taking precautions is the most reliable option to defend against mosquito and tick borne diseases. If you find a tick on yourself or your pet and are worried about disease, there are options for getting the tick tested for diseases. The lab at TickReport in Amherst, Massachusetts will provide you with test results within three business days. Visit <https://www.tickreport.com/> to learn more about tick testing including pricing plans.