

Salt Marsh Mosquito Pest Calendar for Coastal NT 2020



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Aedes vigilax – northern salt marsh mosquito

Medical Entomology
Public Health Unit, Primary Health Care
Top End Health Service
Northern Territory Government

Salt marsh mosquito lifecycle

The northern salt marsh mosquito *Aedes vigilax* is the most important pest mosquito in the Top End of the NT due to its aggressive biting habits, its ability to bite during the day as well as the night, and its sudden emergence in very high numbers. This calendar shows periods when *Ae. vigilax* pest numbers are expected in the Darwin area in 2020 in relation to Darwin Harbour tides. Other coastal areas of the NT near breeding sites will have pest problems at around the same time. Heavy rainfall can cause high numbers outside the indicated pest periods.

Aedes vigilax breeding sites include the upper tidal section of extensive mangrove areas, brackish swamps with extensive reed growth and flood plains associated with tidal rivers. The mosquitoes lay their eggs in moist mud. The eggs hatch when the habitat is flooded by large tides or heavy rain. Newly emerged adult mosquitoes start flying 9 days after the tide or rain and persist in high numbers for 7 to 14 days, depending on the humidity. They can disperse over long distances of up to 50km but are generally more common within 5km of breeding sites.

In Darwin a tide of 7.5m in late April or May initiates the season, with mosquito numbers increasing after each succeeding spring tide and heavy rain between August and January. Very high *Ae. vigilax* numbers can usually be expected between October and mid-January, depending on tides and rain. The mosquitoes are largely absent from February to late March or April as the major habitats are flooded, preventing the mosquitoes from laying eggs.

Disease risk

Aedes vigilax can transmit Ross River and Barmah Forest virus. The highest risk period for these viruses in the Top End is December and January. Older mosquitoes present at the tail ends of the highest pest periods pose a higher potential risk for Ross River virus transmission, as they have had more time to acquire the virus from animal reservoirs.

Personal protection

Personal protection, such as full-length trousers, long-sleeved shirts, socks and shoes, and the use of insect repellents containing DEET or picaridin is needed to provide protection from salt marsh mosquitoes.

For more information please contact: Medical Entomology, PHU, Primary Health Care, Top End Health Service, Darwin on (08) 8922 8901

Disclaimer:

- This Pest Calendar has been developed to provide an indication of potential *Ae. vigilax* pest periods, and therefore should only be used as an indicator.

Salt Marsh Mosquito Pest Calendar for coastal NT 2020

JANUARY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

FEBRUARY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

MARCH						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

APRIL						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

MAY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JULY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

DECEMBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Very high mosquito peaks
 High mosquito peaks
 Moderate mosquito peaks
 Low mosquito peaks