

10 Ways to Fight Mosquito Breeding and Decrease Dengue Fever in Bali

From:

Trudy Rilling-Collins, "The Mosquito Lady"

trudy@mosquitolady.com , www.mosquitolady.com

****Mosquitoes always breed in standing water, look for the wigglers there!***

1. Check to make sure fish are in all the water features around your garden, if not, put 10 small **mosquito eating fish in every water feature**. **Remove any water filled urns** with shallow water (2-5 cms). This type of urn has plenty of water for mosquitoes but not enough water for fish to survive.
2. Check the water in refrigerator drip pans for mosquito breeding.
3. Check for mosquito breeding in the **three terrible T's, TIRES, TANKS and TARPS**. Remove water from tires and store in a dry covered area. Check **water storage tanks to make sure** there are no entry points for mosquitoes. Use heavy duty duct tape, pipe fitting, silicon caulking and netting to seal any holes or gaps! **Avoid the use of tarps** to cover materials stored outside. If tarps must be used, use corner weights to stretch tarps tightly over material creating a roof like configuration. Trim tarps to fit the job exactly instead of having excess material folded on the ground.
4. Check to make sure the **vent pipes on every septic tank are screened, and that septic tanks are completely sealed at the ground surface with concrete grout**, without any cracks or holes that allow mosquitoes to come and go from the tank.
5. Look for **coconuts** that are collecting water and breeding mosquitoes. If found, cut into quarters and stack the pieces so that they can't collect water. If you have large piles of coconuts you may want to consider removing them. Don't throw coconuts down river canyon embankments!
6. **Many plants breed mosquitoes in their leaf axils** (where the leaf meets the trunk of the plant), flowers and spurs; including Traveler Palms or Fan Palms, Heliconias, Calathea and Alocasia or Elephant Ears. Avoid landscaping with any plant that holds water! The most sure-fire solution is removal of mosquito breeding plants from the landscape. It is sometimes possible to fill the leaf axils with sand.

7. **Check for mosquito breeding in wells, rain gutters, cut bamboo poles and vases.**
Sealing wells completely with a concrete cover plate and concrete grout around the pipes is worthwhile, both to protect water quality and to prevent mosquito breeding.
8. **Change the water** in pet enclosures daily! Scrub pet water dishes daily to kill mosquito eggs laid dry on the sides of the dishes.
9. **Re-organize** stored materials around your home to remove containers that are collecting water in the rain.
10. Share what you know about controlling mosquitoes with your neighbors to **create a larger "Zone of Safety"**! Organize a **neighborhood clean-up** to get rid of trash and containers that hold water that could be breeding mosquitoes.

TAKE ACTION NOW!