WALS

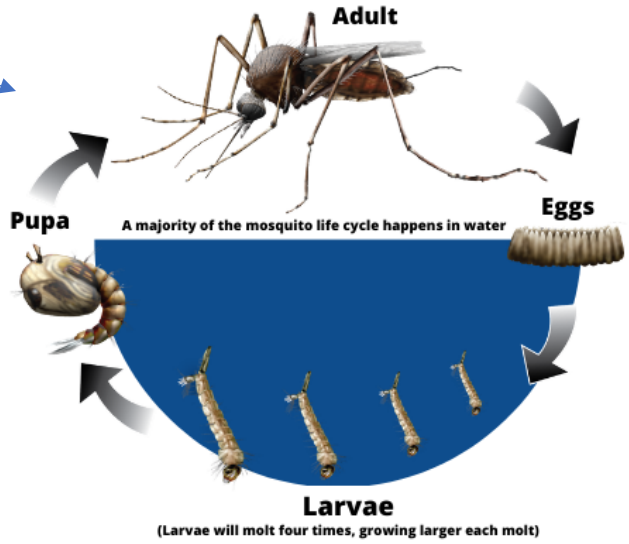
Wide Area Larvicide Spray

ORANGE COUNTY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

Wide Area Larvicide Spraying WALS™

WALS stands for Wide Area Larvicide Spray. WALS is an approach to larval control that uses a naturally occurring bacterium to kill mosquito larvae in the water before they emerge into biting adults. Control of mosquitoes while in the larval stage is the backbone of most mosquito control programs in California.

From egg to adult in 5-7 days.



What is a larvicide?

Larvicides are products used to reduce immature mosquito populations when they are still in the water. Larvicides, which can be biological or chemical-based, are applied directly to water sources that hold immature mosquitoes, including eggs, larvae, and pupae. Larvicides reduce the overall mosquito population by limiting the number of biting adult mosquitoes produced from a water source.

What are the benefits of larvicides?
Controlling mosquitoes while they are in the immature stages helps to minimize the number of adult mosquitoes that are in the community biting people. This helps to reduce the risk of people contracting West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne diseases.

How is WALS used in the OCMVCD application process?
OCMVCD applies the WALS method using a powerful truck-mounted sprayer that combines high volumes of air and low volumes of liquid larvicide mixed with water, to efficiently treat a wide variety of mosquito breeding sites. This system allows the larvicide to drift into small breeding sources that are hard to find and reach.

What product does OCMVCD use during WALS?
The product used for this type of application is called VectoBac WDG, an organic OMRI rated product. This product uses a type of naturally occurring bacteria, *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *israelensis* or Bti, that when eaten by mosquito larvae, produces a protein crystal that destroys the larvae's intestinal lining (the gut.) Learn more about Bti here: https://www.epa.gov/mosquitocontrol/bti-mosquito-control

Will this approach kill adult mosquitoes?
No, this type of equipment only uses a larvicide, which controls the larval stage of the mosquito before they turn into biting adults. OCMVCD uses other methods to control adult mosquitoes.

How loud is the equipment?
The equipment uses a 20 hp Twin Cylinder Electric Start Honda GX 630 Engine. It sounds like a loud lawnmower but no louder than a street sweeper.

How can I find out where these treatments are taking place?
OCMVCD posts all treatments on our website at ocvector.org. You can also sign up for our alert system to be notified about activity in your city at: https://www.ocvector.org/sign-up-for-alerts

Will spraying affect bees?
When WALS (Wide Area Larvicide Spray) is conducted using VectoBac WDG, there will be no impact on bees.

Are there special notices for beekeepers?
No, the product being used has no impact on bees. However, we strongly encourage beekeepers to register their hive with the Orange County Agricultural Commissioner's office in order to be notified prior to adulticide applications being made. You may contact the Orange County Agricultural Office at 714-955-0100.

What training is required for workers who apply public health pesticides?
The staff members that handle and dispense pesticides are certified by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) as Certified Vector Control Technicians.

Will the application leave a type of residue afterward?
The spray deposit may show as very small dried droplets (fine dust when droplet dries) on some outside surfaces and potentially may be visible on surfaces. The dried droplets are washable and will not affect your home, garden, outdoor furniture, or your vehicles.

Is the product being used harmful to humans or pets?
When applied as directed Bti will not harm people, pets, nor wildlife including aquatic life, other insects, and honeybees. Click on this link for more information about the product: https://www.cdc.gov/zika/pdfs/BTI_Fact_Sheet.pdf

Do I have to go indoors during spraying?
No, but residents may take additional measures to achieve personal comfort during the application by going indoors.

To learn more about the product being used go to: bit.ly/VectoBac