

February 14, 2016

Timeline:

1947 - Zika virus was discovered in Uganda, Africa in a Rhesus monkey.

1951 - 1981 It spread throughout Africa and into Asia.

2007 - It struck Yap island in the Pacific. Seventy percent of the population caught the virus.

On July 7, 2007, it appeared in the U.S, found in a traveler from Yap island.

2013-2014 It spread throughout the Pacific, in the Polynesian Islands, Cook Island, Solomon Island, and Vanuatu Islands.

2015 - It has been found in South America, Brazil, and other locations. It is estimated that 0.5 to 1.5 million people are infected. Hawaii has its first case from a traveler returning from south America.

2016 - It has been found in Taiwan, Spain and in North America. The first case was reported in Maryland on February 11, 2016.

Background:

Zika virus is spread by the Asian Tiger Mosquito and Yellow fever mosquito. These mosquitos can also carry the west Nile disease. The Asian Tiger mosquito is active in the day time unlike other mosquitos. They are very aggressive and they breed fast. They prefer to bite people over animals. The Asian Tiger mosquito was brought to the U.S through used tire shipments from Asia. The mosquito's presence was documented in Texas as early as 1985. The Asian Tiger mosquito has been present in Hawaii since the late 1800's. They appeared in California from shipments of "Lucky Bamboo" from south China and are now present in over 26 states in the continental U.S. The Asian Tiger mosquito is more prevalent in the humid south Eastern U.S. states, including most counties in Maryland.

Natural Control with predatory insects:

Trials with the cannibal Mosquito proved to be ineffective.

Trials with GMO mosquitos look promising, but they are not without questions or cost.

B.T applications are difficult because the Asian Tiger mosquito breeds in small / very small amounts of water.

Removal of breeding spots (such as containers, used tires, used tarps, and draining of bird baths, flower pots, and outdoor statuary) is the best control.

Control of mosquito larvae in other places (such as small ponds and drains) can be controlled with [Summit Mosquito dunks or Bits](#). They contain the Biological control B.T.

Spray applications for control:

Spray areas in which the Asian Tiger mosquito may be present.

[Summit Mosquito and Gnat barrier](#) spray contains Permethrin. Permethrin is very effective for fast mosquito control.

[Spray Summit mosquito and Gnat barrier](#) spray in the early evening under decks, in dense vegetation, and in ornamental plants that are in the shade or shade gardens.

Avoid spraying flowers gardens to protect bees and butterflies.

The use of personal insect repellants is recommended when the Asian or Yellow Fever mosquito are present.