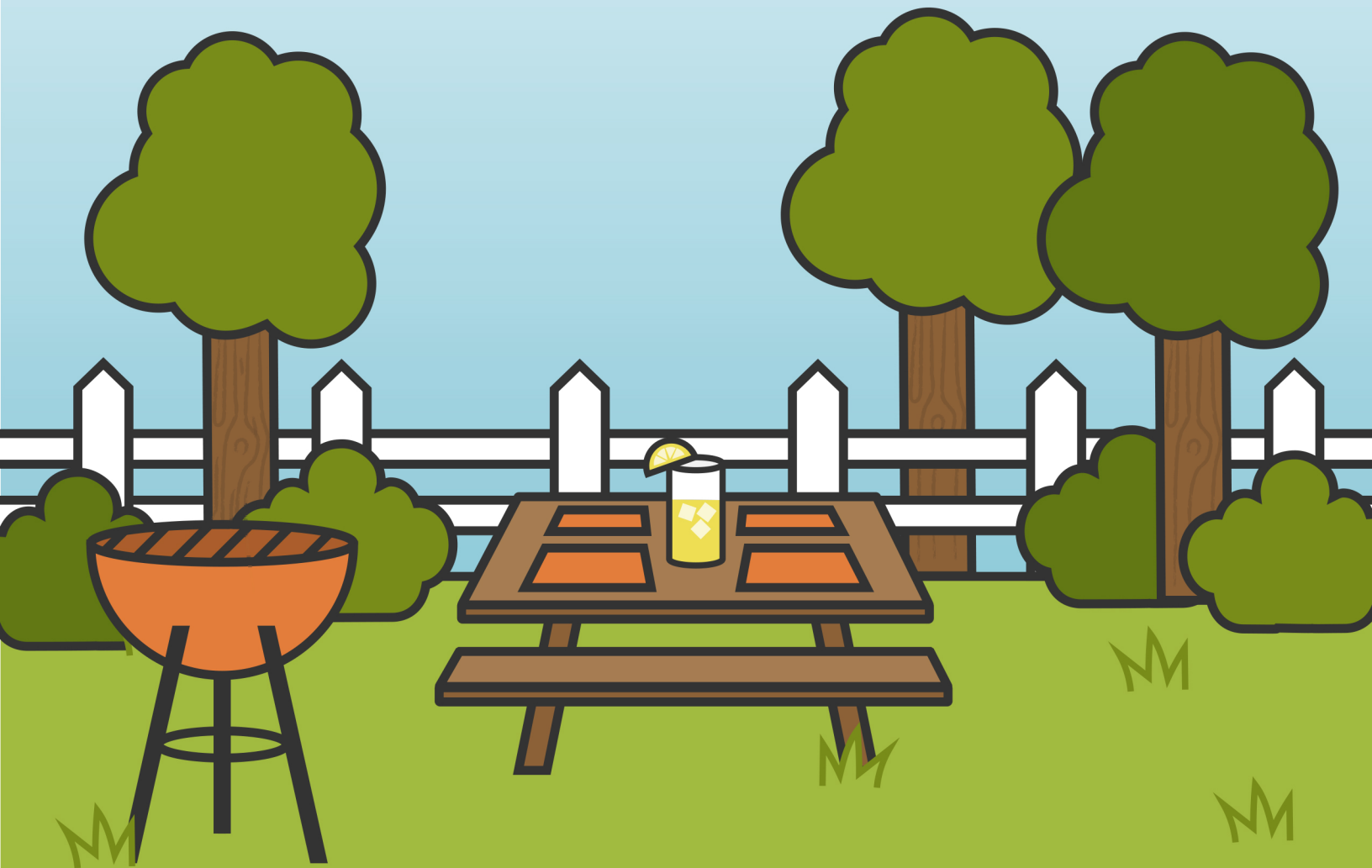


# How To Keep **MOSQUITOES** Out Of Your Yard This Summer



Mosquitoes are the enemies of homeowners across the nation. Anyone who's been to an outdoor picnic or barbeque plagued by mosquitoes will know just how big a nuisance they can be. Beyond their irritating buzzing and uncomfortable stings, they play host to a myriad of diseases, a fact that makes them one of the most deadly insects on the planet.

With an estimated 175 species in the United States alone, homeowners need to take every precaution they can if they want to enjoy the outdoors in the summer months. In this Ebook, we'll look at some of the risks mosquitoes pose, the factors that might attract them to your yard, some ways you can deter them, and how to eliminate them and keep them out for good.





# Table of Contents

1	Introduction
3	Why You Should Keep Mosquitoes Out
5	Common Factors that Help Mosquitoes Reproduce in a Yard
8	How You Can Prevent Mosquitoes from Reproducing
12	Eliminating an Existing Mosquito Population

# Why You Should Keep Mosquitoes Out

Mosquitoes are bad news for a number of reasons, including:

## **Disease**

Mosquitoes have been the bane of societies for millennia due to the diseases they carry. In fact, mosquitoes can play host to so many harmful diseases, particularly malaria, that they are considered the deadliest bug on the planet. Mosquitoes are estimated to cause the deaths of over one million people every year.

In addition to malaria, the diseases Chikungunya, Dengue, Yellow fever, dog heartworm, West Nile virus, four types of Encephalitis, and more have all been traced back to mosquitoes, and the list continues to grow. Most recently, the Zika Virus, which can lead to birth defects in the children of mothers infected with the disease, has been traced back primarily to mosquitoes.

Worse, mosquitoes that bite someone with a disease can carry that disease onto anyone they bite afterward, meaning that one person's infection can lead to everyone else's. Allowing mosquitoes to occupy your yard puts your entire family at risk of harmful and deadly diseases.



## Allergies

In addition to spreading disease, mosquito bites for some people can also lead to severe allergic reactions. Physical symptoms can include a large itchy rash, lesions, bruises, and even hives, while some people are even at risk of developing lymphangitis or potentially-fatal anaphylaxis as a direct result of a mosquito bite.

People can become more desensitized to mosquito bites over time. While this is good news for adults, it also means that children can be a particular risk of a painful and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction.

## Annoyance

Nothing ruins a nice outdoor picnic or barbeque like mosquitoes. Even without the risks they pose, mosquito bites are itchy and uncomfortable. The loss of blood unnoticed, the rash that can form on your skin as a result certainly won't be. In heavily infested areas, the deafening buzz of mosquito wings can be as annoying as their bites.

Anyone that's been in an heavily-infested area knows what a nuisance mosquitoes are. Save yourself the annoyance this summer by keeping them away from your home.



# Common Factors that Help Mosquitoes Reproduce in a Yard

Mosquitoes prefer some climates and environmental conditions over others. Know what to look for so that you can defend your yard to the best of your ability.

## **Standing Water**

The mosquito lifecycle follows four steps: first the female lays eggs, which hatch into larvae (or “wigglers”), then the larvae undergo successive molts and become cocoon-like pupae, and finally the pupae emerge as adults.

The time it takes for a mosquito to mature will be about ten days but can vary based on a number of factors. The first three steps must all take place in standing water. Stagnant water found in ponds, pools, pets’ water bowls, or even rainwater in poorly-drained yards are all giant “welcome” signs for mosquitoes looking for a place to lay their eggs.

It’s also important to remember that mosquitoes can’t fly very far. Most are only able to fly for about one to three miles at maximum, and often stay within a few hundred feet of the body of water they were hatched in. This means that if you have untreated standing water on your property, generations of mosquitoes are likely calling it home.

## Warm Weather

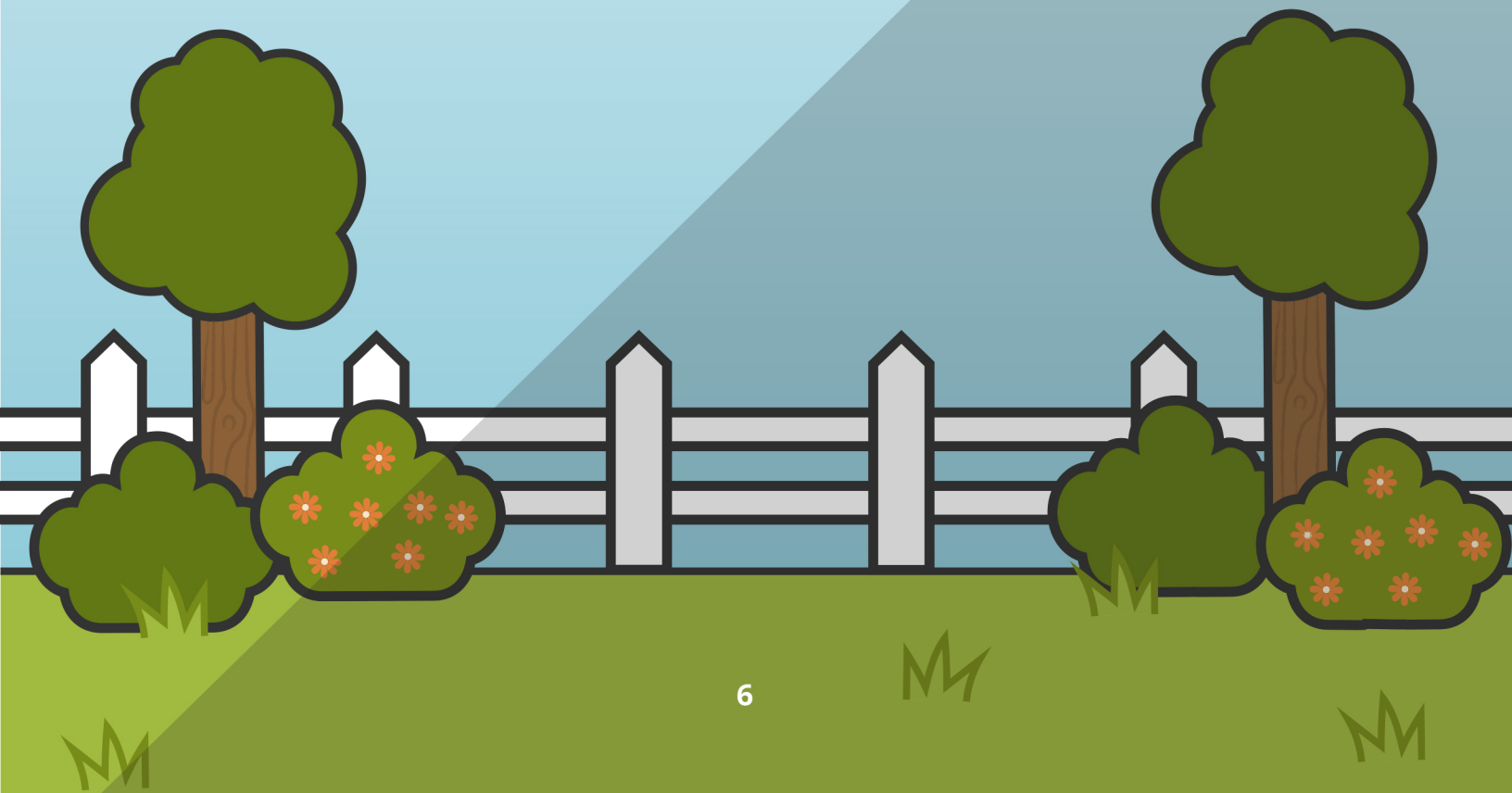
Mosquitoes hibernate in cold winter months, emerging when temperatures rise. When a female adult mosquito awakes from hibernation, her first course of action will be to find a source of blood she can use to produce eggs, which could very well be you.

Across North America, mosquitoes will become more active at different times of the year based on the climate, but one thing is constant: as temperature increases, so does mosquito activity. Unfortunately, especially in the southern United States, warm weather is a fact of life, meaning that mosquitoes are too.

## Shady Spots and Dark Colors

Several studies have shown that mosquitoes respond to dark colors, especially dark blues, because these colors retain more heat. For this reason, on a hot summer day, people wearing dark colors are much more likely to get bitten than people wearing whites or pastels.

The same concept applies to your yard. In the summer heat, many of a mosquito's targets will seek shady spots to escape the sun's rays, so mosquitoes are naturally attracted to these areas in search of targets to bite.

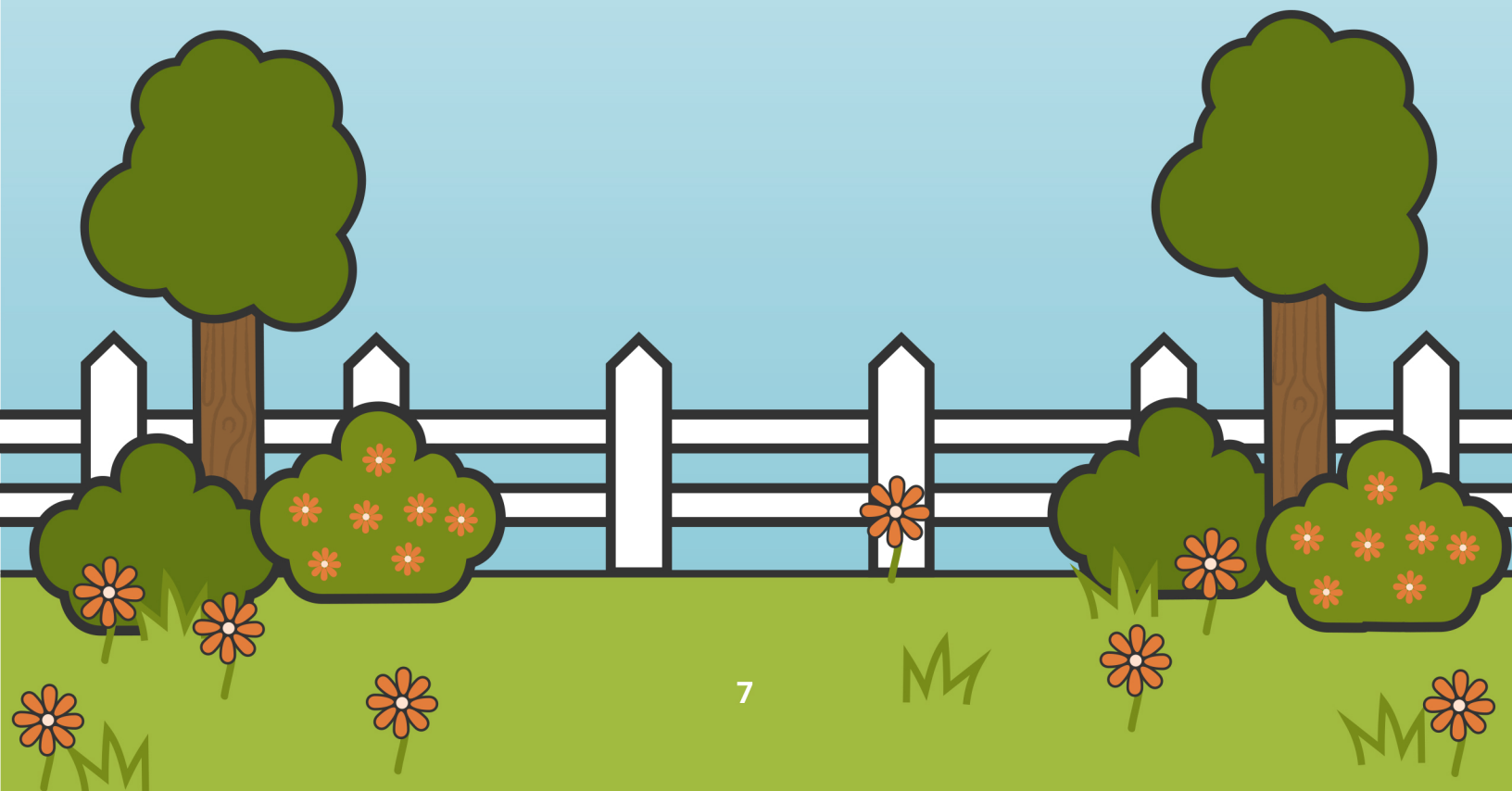


## Plants and Flowers

While there is a common myth that certain specific trees, such as weeping willows, attract mosquitoes, this has more to do with the two requiring similar environmental conditions. Weeping willows and mosquitoes both thrive in hot, humid climates near water sources, so naturally the two are often found inhabiting the same spaces.

However, unlike trees, flowers may present a risk. While only the female mosquito sucks blood, both male and female mosquitoes feed themselves on flower nectar. Water lilies, water hyacinths, water lettuce, Taro, and papyrus plants can be particularly attractive, as can any other plant with leaves that hold water for long periods of time.

Certain types of plants, flowers, and shrubs are more attractive to mosquitoes than others, particularly as hibernation spots. For instance, because mosquitoes are attracted to warm, shady areas, large bushes that block the sun, particularly those near human structures such as garden sheds, can be hotbeds for mosquito activity.



# How You Can Prevent Mosquitoes from Reproducing

Remember that mosquitoes can't fly very far and tend to stay within the same general area for their entire lives so long as conditions are favorable. This means that the best course of action any homeowner can take to keep mosquitoes out of the yard is to deny them anywhere to breed.

Here are some strategies to cut off mosquitoes before they have a chance to infest your yard

## **Eliminate Standing Water**

Since mosquitoes can't breed without standing water, the first step to take in order to keep mosquitoes at bay is to eliminate any water sources that mosquitoes might get into. Some usual suspects include:

<b>The Garden</b>	If you have potted plants, excess water may run through the soil and build up in the collection pan, so be sure to empty these pans at least once a week. Likewise, if you have fountains or birdbaths, clean and scrub them regularly so that stagnant water doesn't have a chance to build up. Consider adding a waterfall, fountain, or aerator to your birdbath or water garden, which will disrupt the surface of the water and keep it from going stagnant.
<b>Gutters and Drains</b>	Debris-filled gutters that can't drain properly will trap water inside, making a perfect home for mosquitoes. Clear your gutters and drains regularly, and if buildups persist, consider getting new ones.
<b>Swimming Pools</b>	While a properly maintained and chlorinated underground pool should be safe, failure to maintain clean chemical levels put them at risk. Above ground pools should be drained and stored properly whenever they are not in use.
<b>Air Conditioning Units</b>	Outdoor air conditioning units, particularly window units, are prone to leaking due to exposure. If left unchecked, the water can build up and provide a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Regularly check any A/C units around your home for leaks, repair them, and dispose of any excess water you find.
<b>Outdoor Faucets</b>	Like air conditioning units, leaky outdoor faucets also pose a threat to your yard. Be sure to check and repair any leaking faucets on the premises and remove any standing water you find.
<b>Clutter and Garbage</b>	Unfortunately, junk around your home has a bad tendency to collect moisture. Old tires, grills, car parts, shelves, and the like that are left out in the yard will eventually collect rainwater that can serve as a mosquito breeding ground. If you have trash lying around in your yard, get rid of it as soon as possible.

For smaller objects like unused pots, buckets, or bins, keep them inside the garage or shed, or turn them upside down so that rainwater can't collect. Keep your trash cans and recycling bins covered so that water can't get inside, and consider drilling small holes in the bottom so that any water that does get in can drain out. Place fine mesh screens over rain barrels, water tanks, and cisterns so that mosquitoes can't get in.

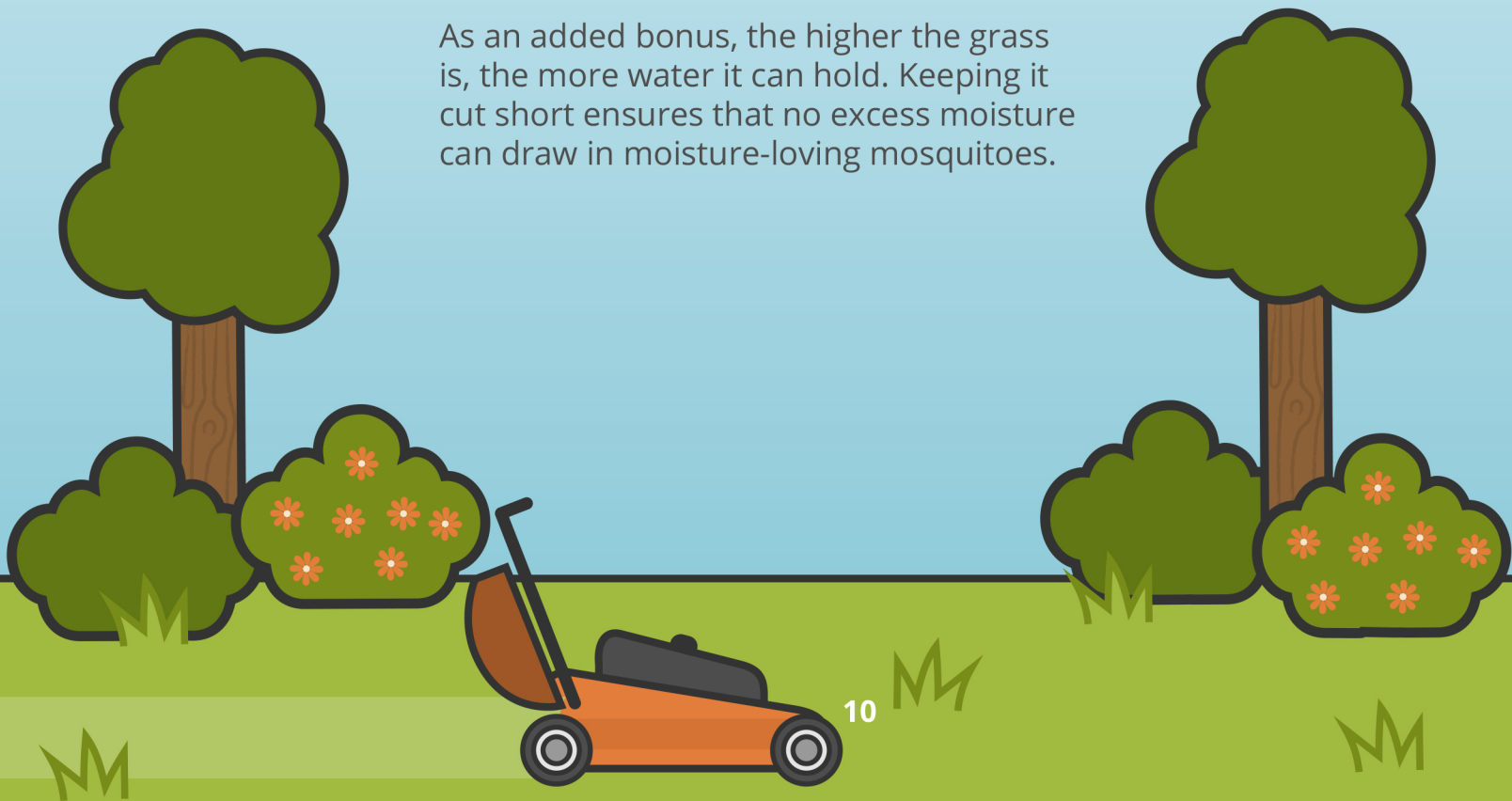
Don't forget that water collects in plants. If you have certain plants that collect standing water, use a pin to poke small holes in the leaves so that they can drain properly.

Female mosquitoes can also get into cracks and crevices in your porch or patio, so fill these wherever possible. If you notice small holes in the trunks of trees nearby, eliminate them or fill them with sand.

## Mow the Lawn

Beyond creating a more beautiful home, keeping the lawn mowed and the grass short will also help deter mosquitoes from invading. Mosquitoes like to sit in tall grass to rest between flights and to hide from predators, so keeping it short gives them one less reason to invade your yard.

As an added bonus, the higher the grass is, the more water it can hold. Keeping it cut short ensures that no excess moisture can draw in moisture-loving mosquitoes.



## Trim Tall Weeds and Bushes

Like tall grass, tall weeds and bushes will hold in moisture in addition to offering mosquitoes a place to rest and hide from predators. Keep it well-trimmed to limit the amount of adult mosquitoes that will be attracted to the area.

## Plant Mosquito-Repelling Flowers and Herbs

It's great to deny mosquitoes a place to rest and breed, but repelling them completely is even better. Luckily, mosquitoes are naturally repulsed by certain smells, so planting flowers and herbs that admit these odors in strategic locations can keep mosquitoes from coming near.

Some tried and tested plants include citronella, lavender, rosemary, and catnip. You might also plant geraniums, marigolds, and pennyroyal flowers to spruce up your garden and keep mosquitoes at bay simultaneously.

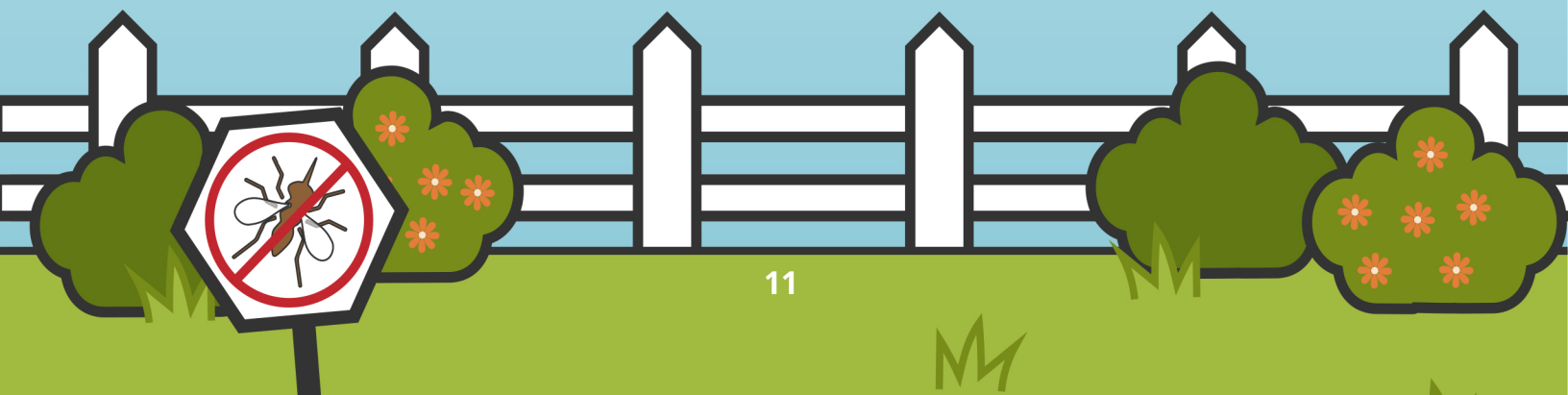
## Light Candles

Certain candles release mosquito-repelling aromas that can fortify your yard's defenses. While recent studies have shown that citronella candles aren't very effective in wide open settings, placing them in an enclosed space, such as a patio, can add an extra layer of defense and provide a little mood lighting simultaneously.

## Cover Yourself

Part of keeping mosquitoes away is taking away their food source: you. When you're outside, cover yourself in bug-repellant sunscreen, which serves the dual purpose of protecting you from both the sun and the mosquitoes. When looking at repellants, make sure to get one that contains DEET, a chemical that's harmless to humans but blocks mosquitoes' sense of smell and repels them.

If possible, wear light or pastel-colored long-sleeve clothing, which won't attract mosquitoes as much as darker colors and will protect the areas most vulnerable to bites.



# Eliminating an Existing Mosquito Population

Even if you've taken all the right steps to prevent them, mosquitoes may still find your yard. If that's the case, it's time to take steps to eliminate the problem.

## Larvicides

One effective strategy to kill off mosquitoes is to eliminate their larvae before they have a chance to mature into adults. This can be accomplished through larvicides, which are pellets that are dispersed into a potential breeding habitat - a body of water. With monthly application, larvicides can quickly decimate a local mosquito population.

Look for mosquito larvicides that carry one or more of the following chemicals:

- **Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis (BTI):** A poison that kills any larvae that ingest it
- **Methoprene:** An insect growth regulator that prevents larvae from molting
- **Mineral Oil:** Suffocates the larvae when sprayed on the surface of their water habitat

As an added bonus, mosquito larvicides generally won't kill the insects that prey on mosquitoes, such as dragonflies. Just remember that insecticides are not a permanent solution, and once the chemicals dissipate, the mosquitoes may return.



## Natural Predators

Luckily, humans aren't the only species that can kill mosquitoes. One way to help deplete a population is simply to introduce mosquito predators to the area and let them do what comes naturally.

Bats and birds love to feast on mosquitoes, so building bird and bat houses in your home's vicinity can bring them in to serve as population control. Dragonflies also love mosquitoes, so releasing some in your garden can be a big help.

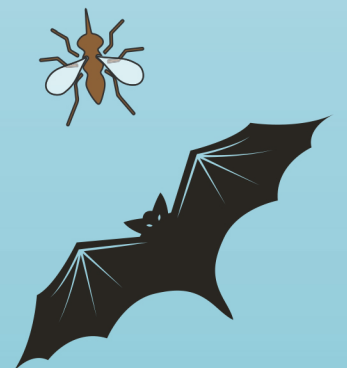
Since mosquitoes spend so much time in and around water, consider introducing mosquito-eating fish to their habitat. Minnows and mosquito fish in a water garden will make short work of any mosquito larvae, while koi and goldfish can help keep a larger pond or creek's mosquito population in check.

However, before introducing any new species, first check to make sure that they won't be affected by any larvicides you're currently using.

## Professional Help

Ultimately, if you're experiencing a mosquito problem, the best step is always to get a professional onboard. Insecticides can be effective, but are ultimately a short-term solution. By starting a comprehensive mosquito control program with a professional pest control specialist, you'll be able to eliminate your mosquito problem, and keep them from coming back.

An experienced professional will be able to find all the spots that mosquitoes might be hiding, including hard-to-reach areas and places that you might not think to check. Mosquitoes will have no place to hide, and you'll be able to fully enjoy the warm weather again.



**What a Qualified Mosquito Control Professional Will Be Able to Do:**

- Inspect the customer's yard, plants, and shrubs, and create a customized plan based on each client's unique situation
- Educate customers about mosquitoes and the risk they can pose
- Provide complete and comprehensive mosquito control for your home
- Create a spray barrier around your home that will keep mosquitoes away
- Treat the areas where mosquitoes are active and where they rest, providing complete coverage
- Use products that are not harmful to other wildlife such as honey bees, fireflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinators
- Re-apply mosquito spray on a monthly basis to ensure last protection
- Follow strict environmental regulations to ensure a treatment that safe both for your home and for the environment

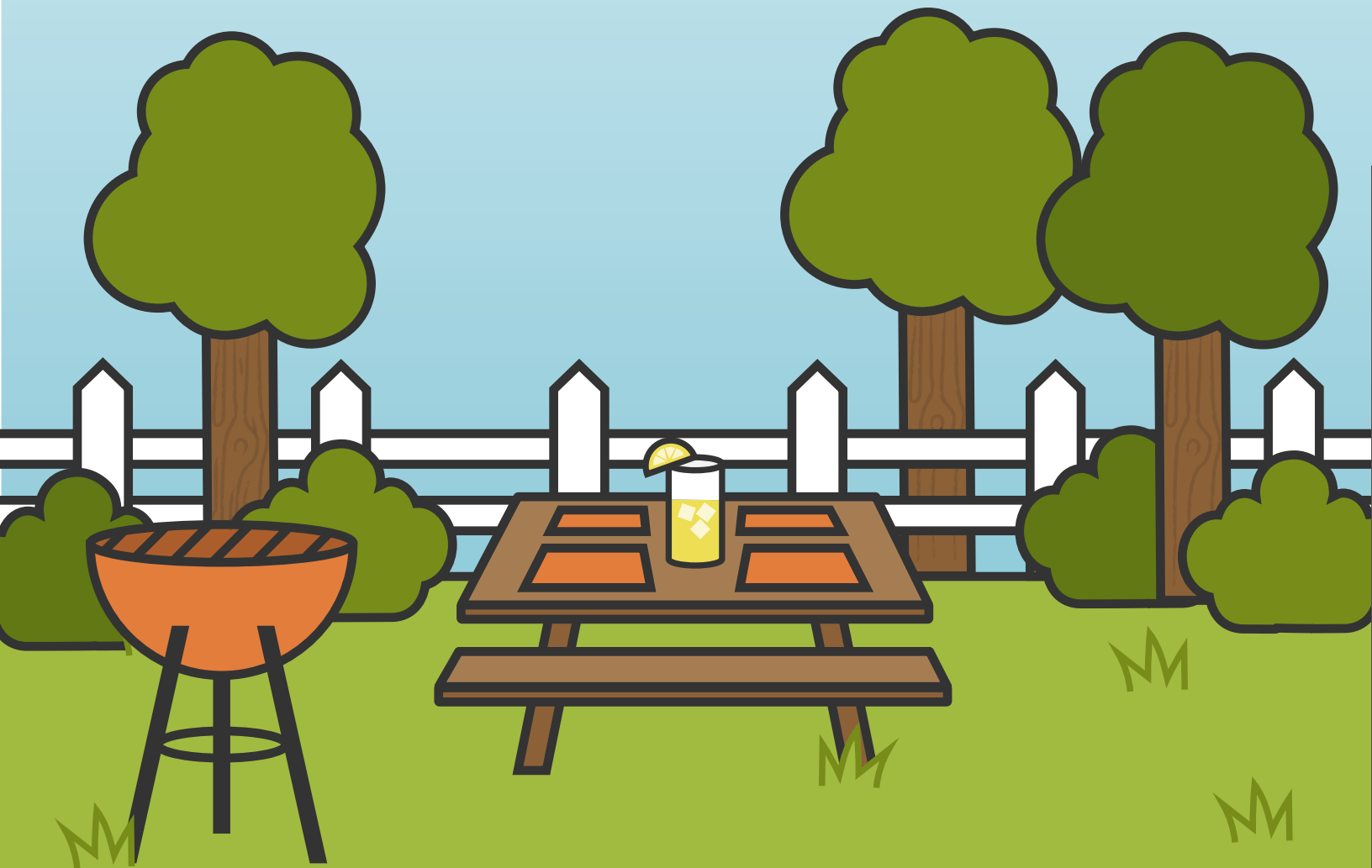
**What a Qualified Mosquito Control Professional Won't Do:**

- Try to create a one-size-fits-all solution instead of creating a plan that fits the customer
- Use harmful chemicals or put your home at risk
- Harm local shrubs, plants, and flowers
- Use mosquito blowers, which spread airborne particles that can harm other wildlife and pollinators

Breda Pest Management is committed to offering effective and safe mosquito treatment to homeowners throughout Georgia and the metro Atlanta area. We have generations of experience creating custom prevention and extermination solutions to keep Georgia homes and yards safe from mosquitos and other pests.

## **HAVE A MOSQUITO PROBLEM OR WANT TO PREVENT ONE?**

**Schedule a Call With a Mosquito Control  
Professional Today About Treating Your Yard**



# Sources

13 Natural Ways to Keep Mosquitoes Away

How to Keep Mosquitoes Away

How to Keep Mosquitoes Out of Your Yard

Mosquito-Borne Diseases

Centers for Disease Control - Zika Virus

Centers for Disease Control - Dengue Virus

Centers for Disease Control - Chikungunya Virus

Mosquito Bite Allergy

Mosquito Life Cycle

Mosquito Season: Time to be Prepared

8 Things That Attract Mosquitoes

Mosquito Facts - 33 Things You Didn't Know About Mosquitoes

Do Mosquitoes Hibernate?

Mosquitoes and Plants

How to Prevent Mosquitoes from Breeding

7 Easy Ways to Stop Mosquitoes from Breeding in Your Yard

Want to Repel Mosquitoes? Don't Use Citronella Candles

How to Make an Easy Mosquito Trap - Catch 1000s of Mosquitoes Every Night

What Really Works for Mosquito Control?

How to Kill Mosquitoes