



MOSQUITO FACT SHEET: *Culex pipiens* (The Northern House Mosquito)



Physical Characteristics:

Adult female mosquitoes are small to medium in size and brown in color. It is mostly known for being very non-descript in its appearance. It has uniformly brown colored legs and striping on the abdominal segments.

Biology:

An extremely common mosquito within Lucas County. Overwinters as adult mosquitoes in microclimates that stay above freezing, such as sewers and natural shelters like caves and hollow trees. Eggs are deposited directly onto standing water locations, in rafts of 50-150 or more, that stick together and float. Common places these egg rafts are found can be man-made artificial containers such as tires, buckets, flower pots, catch basins, ornamental water gardens, or bird baths. Natural locations with standing water can also provide a good location for these rafts to be deposited. In 7-9 days the aquatic portion of the lifecycle is complete and the adult mosquito emerges. Normal lifespan for the adult mosquito is a few weeks, but can extend to several months when surviving the winter. They will have multiple generations throughout a mosquito season. Their flight range is typically 1-2 miles and they are very successful in neighborhoods and breeding around homes and people.

Host preferences:

This mosquito is opportunistic in its feeding habits but shows an overall preference for birds. It is not an aggressive biter of people, but will feed on people if the opportunity is presented.

Medical Importance:

Culex pipiens are most well known for being involved in the transmission West Nile Virus. This is the mosquito primarily responsible for spreading West Nile Virus to people after it has acquired the virus from feeding on an infected bird. It can also transmit dog heartworm, St. Louis Encephalitis, Western Equine Encephalitis, as well as other diseases. This is the most medically important mosquito in Lucas County.