

Be Safe Outside

Working in the garden or just going in and out of the house, be sure to protect yourself from West Nile virus. Here are some tips to stay safe:

1. Stay indoors at Dusk and Dawn when mosquitoes are active.
2. If you need to be outside, wear long sleeves and pants, not shorts.
3. Use insect repellent that contains Deet, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
4. Identify areas with standing water and drain. Remove saucers under flower pots. To provide water for wildlife or pets, change water daily in a bird bath or pet dish.
5. If you have tire swings for children, drill holes in the tires to avoid standing water.

Not everyone that is bitten by a mosquito carrying the virus will show symptoms; however, none of us need to be a walking experiment, so take precautions and be safe when you need to be outdoors. For more information on West Nile Virus, check the Dept. of State Health Services at www.dshs.state.tx.us.

Next week several classes are starting: Tuesday, at the Texas A & M AgriLife Extension office in Edinburg, we have a class on soils and mineral nutrition from 9:30 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. The focus will be on phosphorus and potassium and their roles in plant health. This program is free and open to anyone who wants a better understanding of soil and plant relationships. Contact our office at (956) 383-1026.

On Wednesday, September 12, the Grow'n Growers program will begin from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. in north San Juan. This program is for people who want to grow vegetables and sell at the farmers market. It is held every Wednesday through mid June. All participants market their produce each Saturday morning from November through June. Contact us for more information at the above number.

On Thursday, September 13, the Master Gardener volunteer training will begin. We train folks to provide educational programs and horticultural demonstrations for the public. Our volunteers also participate in maintaining an educational demonstration garden. Classes run each Thursday through November 15th from 9:00 to 4:30 p.m. Contact us at (956) 383-1026.

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