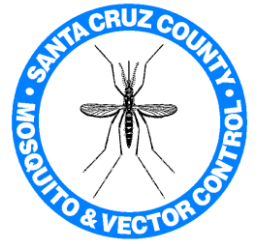


# County of Santa Cruz



Office of the Agricultural Commissioner  
Mosquito and Vector Control CSA 53  
640 Capitola Road, Santa Cruz, California 95062  
(831) 454-2590 Fax (831) 464-9161 Internet : [www.agdept.com](http://www.agdept.com)  
Juan Hidalgo, Agricultural Commissioner Paul L. Binding, Manager

Dear Resident,

Santa Cruz County Mosquito and Vector Control (MVC) routinely finds high numbers of the "house mosquito", *Culex pipiens* in the San Lorenzo Valley. The house mosquito can breed densely in septic systems and is a vector of West Nile Virus. It excels in gaining access to indoor spaces, and bites at night. Mosquitoes can fly into septic lids, clean out portals and some roof vents to lay their eggs in the septic water (see diagram below).

MVC is requesting the cooperation of residents to mosquito-proof any above ground septic tank lids as needed in a variety of inexpensive ways which may include covering them with plastic sheets and sand, or using silicone or roof patch to seal gaps; cap clean out portals, and consider screening septic roof vents with a double layer of aluminum window screen and zip-ties. Mosquitoes are less likely to pass through roof vents than lids or clean-out portals, however this remains a possibility especially if there are relatively short distances from the roof vent to the septic tank. Small gaps barely larger than the size of window screen mesh will allow mosquitoes to pass through.

MVC offers free inspection of any possible source of mosquitoes. Please email to [Pesthelp@agdept.com](mailto:Pesthelp@agdept.com) or call (831) 454-2590 for consultation on mosquito-proofing your septic system.

Thank You,

Santa Cruz County Mosquito and  
Vector Control

October, 2016

