



GREEN HOME AND GARDEN TIP # 1

BY DEBBIE DENNIS,

Texas Master Naturalist: Gulf Coast Chapter

Mosquitoes are starting to fly about again, and the West Nile Virus is again rearing its ugly head. Subdivisions and the county spray for these pests, but what can be done by individual homeowners to cut down on mosquito populations?

- Clean your gutters!! Gutters filled with leaves and debris hold shallow water and that is the perfect breeding ground for the type of mosquitoes that carry West Nile.
- Don't let shallow pools of water stand around; dishes: including the ones that catch water under your potted plants, old tires and even bird baths can attract this insect. Mosquitoes breed in stagnant water so fill the bird baths often to prevent hatching.
- Install a pond that will attract dragonflies, a natural mosquito predator.
- Attract birds to the garden, they like insects, too.

If people can control these insects in a more natural, healthy way, maybe fogging with chemical pesticides will be reduced.