

## Reducing Mosquito Numbers on Residential Properties.

Many things influence the effectiveness of mosquito control products around the home. There are dozens of products available, most of which are effective if correctly applied and the limitations of the product are taken into account. Products should be registered to control adult mosquitoes and contain one of the following products:

- Pyrethrum
- Permethrin
- Deltamethrin
- Cypermethrin
- Bifenthrin
- Tetramethrin



Be aware that different products will have different rates of application, always follow label instructions. The products will also have varying degrees of residual activity, for example, pyrethrum will break down very rapidly in sunlight while bifenthrin will have residual effect for some weeks when properly applied.

These products can be mixed with water and can be applied with either a pneumatic or power sprayer. The spray should be directed towards fences, shaded alcoves and doorways, sheds outbuildings and shrubbery, paying particular attention to the underside of the leaves where biting midges and mosquitoes rest during the day.

When applying any pesticides, always adhere to the label's directions. Use appropriate personal protection such as goggles, impervious gloves and respirator. Read the label, heed the label.

After rain periods all water holding receptacles should be checked and emptied – pot plant bases, flower vases, water



tanks, water features, boats and trailers etc. Roof gutters should be kept clear of leaf litter as this can block the gutter and cause it to hold water where mosquitoes can breed. Ponds and dams should be kept stocked with small native fish that feed on mosquito.

You should also be aware that some mosquito species can travel up to 50 kilometres depending on the species and direction and strength of the wind. These mosquitoes are virtually impossible to keep from entering your property but by correctly applying the control products and taking precautions such as lighting mosquito coils and applying personal repellents, the problem can be reduced considerably.

