



# MVCAC GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The purpose of this glossary is to provide clear and concise definitions of common terms that mosquito and vector control agencies use in public education and outreach efforts. The definitions are intentionally short and use plain language so they are easy to understand and can be translated into other languages. While MVCDs are not required to use the words and definitions below the goal is to have consistency in language across MVCAC and its member agencies.

<b>Adulticide</b>	<p>A substance used to kill adult mosquitoes. Adulticides are a type of pesticide.</p> <p><i>Note: districts may use "adult mosquito treatment" or "adult mosquito control" to describe what they are doing instead of what they are using.</i></p>
<b>Best management practices (BMPs)</b>	<p>The most effective and practical methods to control mosquitoes.</p> <p><i>See also: Integrated mosquito management and integrated vector management</i></p>
<b>Chemical control</b>	<p>Applying a public health pesticide to eliminate insects that are harmful to people.</p> <p><i>Note: see insecticide and pesticide.</i></p>
<b>Daytime biting</b>	<p>Mosquitoes that are most active during the day.</p>
<b>Drones</b>	<p>Flying robots operated remotely by a licensed pilot using GPS. Drones can be used for finding standing water and for making pesticide treatments to that water to control mosquitoes.</p>
<b>GMO, Genetically Modified Organism</b>	<p>A living thing (organism) where a change has been made to the DNA by people. In mosquito management, the genes have been changed so that their offspring do not survive to be adult mosquitoes.</p>
<b>Habitat</b>	<p>The natural environment of the mosquito.</p>
<b>Human case</b>	<p>A person experiencing symptoms of a disease, with confirmatory tests.</p> <p><i>Note: there can be people who do not have symptoms (asymptomatic cases). In our work we tend to focus on symptomatic cases with confirmatory tests.</i></p>

<b>Insecticide</b>	A substance used to kill insects. Insecticides are a type of pesticide.
<b>Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) and Integrated Vector Management (IVM)</b>	<p>The data-driven process to control mosquitoes (IMM) and other disease vectors (IVM) using a combination of methods to protect public health.</p> <p><i>Note: recommend not using IPM (as California Department of Pesticide Regulation is encouraging use of Sustainable Pest Management as the future of IPM).</i></p>
<b>Invasive</b>	Species that are not native to an ecosystem and cause harm.
<b>Irradiation</b>	<p>In mosquito management, this is the practice of sterilizing male mosquitoes with low levels of x-ray technology so that when they mate with wild female mosquitoes, the resulting eggs do not hatch.</p> <p><i>Note: recommend highlighting that sterilized males are not radioactive and that male mosquitoes do not bite.</i></p>
<b>Larvae or immature mosquitoes</b>	Larvae (larval mosquitoes) hatch from mosquito eggs, live in the water, and develop into pupae.
<b>Larvicide</b>	A substance used to kill mosquito larvae. Larvicides are a type of pesticide.
<b>Local transmission</b>	When a person is bitten by an infected mosquito where they live, work, or play.
<b>Monitoring</b>	<p>Assessing the number of mosquitoes or amount of virus activity in an area to determine the next steps.</p> <p><i>Note: if one chooses to continue using surveillance, recommend saying mosquito surveillance to add specificity for people.</i></p>
<b>Mortality (of mosquitoes)</b>	The number of mosquitoes killed by an application or a specific pesticide.

<b>Mortality (of people)</b>	The number of deaths in a given area or time period, of a particular disease.
<b>Non-mosquito (or bugs or insects)</b>	Insects that are not mosquitoes.
<b>Non-target species</b>	<p>Insects that are not the target of control efforts. For example, if one is controlling mosquitoes, then bees and butterflies are examples of non-targets.</p> <p><i>Note: what is a non-target depends on what you are trying to control, so mosquitoes can be a non-target if the target is ants.</i></p>
<b>No See Ums</b>	Biting flies that are smaller than mosquitoes; these flies are so small that you "do not see 'em."
<b>Nuisance mosquito</b>	A mosquito that irritates people and does not transmit disease.
<b>Organic pesticide</b>	<p>Organic or natural pesticides are those that come from plants or minerals. These may not be specific to the pest, and they may not be better than the alternatives.</p> <p><i>Note: discourage using "safe" to describe organics.</i></p>
<b>Pesticide</b>	<p>A substance used to kill pests.</p> <p><i>Note: encourage using more specific words when possible, such as insecticide, larvicide, or adulticide.</i></p>
<b>Pupae and pups</b>	Mosquito larvae become pupae. Pupae live in water and transform into adult mosquitoes. Some mosquito control professionals use the term pups to refer to pupae.
<b>Repellent</b>	A product used to keep insects and ticks away from people or animals.

<b>Residual</b>	<p>A beneficial treatment that will last for an extended period of time; the amount of time that a treatment will last.</p> <p><i>Note: if using the second definition, it is helpful to add the amount of time the treatment could last (ex. barrier treatments can last for up to 2 weeks).</i></p>
<b>Risk</b>	<p>A measure of danger in a situation or how dangerous a situation is.</p>
<b>Samples</b>	<p>A collection of mosquitoes tested for disease.</p>
<b>Source</b>	<p>The location where a mosquito lays its eggs. Examples include plant saucers; kids' toys; broken swimming pools; tree holes; and marshes.</p>
<b>Sterile Insect Technique (SIT)</b>	<p>The release of sterile male insects to mate with wild females to reduce harmful pests. The male insects are specially treated to be infertile.</p>
<b>Stormwater surveillance</b>	<p>Inspections and treatments of stormwater infrastructure such as catch basins, dry wells, gutters, and storm drains (as examples).</p>
<b>Threshold</b>	<p>A specific number that must be met or exceeded for an action to occur within the integrated vector management (or integrated mosquito management) plan. Typically, this is the number of mosquitoes per trap or the number of virus positive samples in an area that leads to a decision to treat that area.</p>
<b>Transmission</b>	<p>The passing of pathogen (a disease-causing agent) from one organism to another.</p> <p><i>Note: we are choosing not to use "host" here. If you do, recommend defining host.</i></p>
<b>Trap</b>	<p>A device that adult mosquitoes enter and do not leave. Traps are used to survey the mosquito population and diseases.</p>

<b>Travel transmission</b>	When a person is bitten by an infected mosquito in another county, state, or country.
<b>Treatment</b>	<p>Methods to reduce mosquito sources, mosquito larvae and adult mosquitoes.</p> <p><i>Note: recommend using treatment instead of "fogging" or "spraying" and encourage adding specificity when possible (e.g., adult mosquito treatment).</i></p>
<b>ULV or Ultra-low volume treatments</b>	A fine mist that contains a small amount of pesticide to control adult mosquitoes in a large area.
<b>Unmaintained pools</b>	A swimming pool that is not being cleaned or maintained. Often with algae, the water can appear green. These can be a source of mosquitoes.
<b>Vector</b>	Insects or other animals that can transmit disease or cause discomfort to humans and animals.
<b>Viral</b>	Caused by, or related to, a virus (an infectious particle that can cause disease).
<b>WALS or wide area larviciding systems</b>	A fine mist that contains a small amount of pesticide to control mosquito larvae in a large area.
<b>Yellow jacket</b>	An aggressive ground-dwelling wasp that can both bite and sting.

## Words to Retire

- **Biorational pesticide** – while this term is used to differentiate public health pesticides as being specific for mosquitoes with low impact it is not a useful term in today's context.
- **Breeding** – this word is useful for professionals, but the meaning is less transparent to the public. In discussing how we use the term, we recommend reframing the information to talk about mosquito sources and where larval mosquitoes can be found. When talk about breeding in the context of sterile insect techniques we recommend using reproduction or mating as substitute terms.
- **Citizen** – this word can lead to visitors and non-US citizens ignoring the messages from districts. Recommend using public, person, or resident.
- **Fogging** – recommend using treatment; ideally, using adult mosquito treatment/control and larval mosquito treatment/control to be more specific.
- **Green pool** – recommend using unmaintained swimming pool instead.
- **Pool and pooled sample** – these words lead to confusion. Recommend using the word sample, as defined above.
- **Spraying** – recommend using treatment; ideally, we recommend using adult mosquito treatment and larval mosquito treatment.
- **UAS and UAV** – recommend using drone, aligning with what the public calls them.