# MVCAC Annual Content Calendar

## FALL
September-November

**ADULT TICKS**
Adult *Ixodes pacificus* ticks (capable of transmitting Lyme disease) are most active between the end of October through late March. Encourage repellent use and tick checks.

**YELLOWJACKETS**
These territorial insects are most active late summer and early fall near human food. Encourage yellowjacket prevention: eliminate all attractive food sources, keep food covered when outdoors, and keep lids on garbage cans.

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## WINTER
December-February

**ADULT TICKS**
Adult *Ixodes pacificus* ticks (capable of transmitting Lyme disease) are most active between the end of October through late March. Encourage repellent use and tick checks.

**RODENT EXCLUSION**
Rats and mice may seek shelter and nesting areas in human spaces during the winter. Encourage rodent exclusion practices: seal up gaps or holes inside and outside the home to keep rodents out and prevent infestations.

**INNOVATION IN MOSQUITO CONTROL**
Mosquito control has changed a lot in the past century. Highlight “old ways” of contending with mosquitoes along with new ways (drones, STS) and why the new ways are an improvement over the previous ways. Highlight eco-consciousness and reduced labor hours for things like drones.

**PEST EXCLUSION**
Piles of leaves and stacks of firewood near human spaces create a haven for rodents and other pests (including ants, other insects, and conenose kissing bugs). In fall and winter, encourage yard cleanup to eliminate potential pest habitats. Emphasize storage of firewood away from the home.

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## SPRING
March-May

**CA MOSQUITO AWARENESS WEEK**
Every April, California mosquito and vector control districts dedicate one week to increasing California’s awareness levels about mosquitoes and the dangerous diseases they are capable of transmitting.  
*Key Dates: 3rd full week in April*

**NYMPHAL TICKS**
Immature *Ixodes pacificus* ticks are most active from March through early July. These tiny ticks pose a greater risk of transmitting Lyme disease. Encourage repellent use and thorough tick checks.

**RODENTS AND HANTAVIRUS**
Spring cleaning of cabins, sheds, and other outside buildings in rural areas after winter closures can stir up rodent-contaminated materials. Encourage safe cleaning practices.

**PREVENTATIVE BIOLOGICAL CONTROL**
Mosquito larvae are available as a treatment for ponds, water troughs and other standing water sources where mosquitoes may develop.

**YELLOWJACKETS**
Yellowjacket queens emerge in spring in search of a nest location. Encourage yellowjacket prevention by trapping queens to reduce the risk of these territorial insects.

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## SUMMER
June-August

**REPORT GREEN SWIMMING POOLS**
Reporting green swimming pools in the spring is important to District technicians can access the neglected pools and treat them before they start producing mosquitoes.

**LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH**
May is Lyme Disease Awareness Month, a month dedicated to increasing public awareness and prevention of Lyme disease. Promote tick awareness and bite prevention practices to prevent disease transmission.

**REMOVE STANDING WATER**
Standing water from spring rains creates the perfect environment for mosquitoes to develop from egg to adult. Emphasize “dump and drain” and “tip and toss” activities in spring.

**DEAD BIRD REPORTING FOR WNV**
Dead bird reports help track WNV activity in California before human cases are reported in summer and fall. Encourage the public to report dead birds!

**INVASIVE MOSQUITOES**
Invasive mosquito activity begins in summer. Increase outreach about dumping and draining standing water and why invasive mosquitoes are a concern.

**REPELLENT FOR MOSQUITO BITE PREVENTION**
During the summer, using EPA-registered repellent is key to preventing mosquito bites and the diseases they spread. Emphasize sun safety and bite prevention: put sunscreen on first, then apply repellent.

**NATIONAL MOSQUITO CONTROL AWARENESS WEEK**
Warming weather means increased mosquito activity. Personal and professional mosquito control practices help prevent mosquitoes and the diseases they spread from becoming a big problem.  
*Key Dates: 3rd full week in June*

**WEST NILE VIRUS**
Mosquitoes are active and WNV transmission disease risk is highest during the hottest summer months. Personal mosquito bite prevention is key to protection from mosquito-transmitted diseases.

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This annual content calendar is meant to serve as a guide to help California mosquito and vector control districts with their outreach efforts and messaging seasonally. Key dates indicate times of the year to include in outreach planning.