

## Pest Profile



**Photo credit:** by Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska

**Common Name:** Mosquito

**Scientific Name:** *Various*

**Order and Family:** Diptera: Culicidae

**Size and Appearance:** The adults are 3-9 mm in length, slender, long-legged, and feature distinct tube-like mouthparts. The wings of the Mosquito also have a hairy appearance. Larvae have a head that is wider than the abdomen, long dorsal hairs, and 2 finger-like projections off of the abdomen.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	< 0.05 mm in length	Depending on species, either single egg on water surface, a raft of eggs on water, or on soil near water. Small, white, jelly-like in appearance.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	0.5-10 mm depending on instar	Larvae have head wider than the abdomen, long dorsal hairs, and 2 finger-like projections off the abdomen.
<b>Adult</b>	0.5-12 mm in length	Vary in color, long legged, tube-like proboscis, hairy wings.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>	5-12 mm long	Pupate in water and remain active.

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Piercing/sucking

**Host /stored food products:** Mosquito females require a blood meal in order to produce eggs. Male mosquitoes feed on a variety of nectar sources. Larvae feed on aquatic organisms and organic debris.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Mosquitoes are one of the most notorious medically important vectors in the world. They are known to spread Yellow Fever, Malaria, Dengue, encephalitis, and Zika in the United States, which is a fraction of the diseases they contribute to spreading worldwide.

**References:**

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