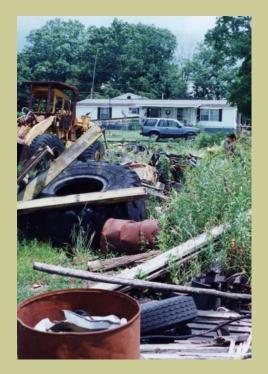
## **REMEMBER...**

The yard that's neater, beats the 'skeeter'.



# LaCrosse Encephalitis



### For More Information...

Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program

Bureau for Public Health West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources 350 Capitol Street, Room 125 Charleston, West Virginia 25301

Phone: 304-558-5358 TollFree:800-423-1271

OR

Contact your local health department

# Treehole Mosquitoes and



West Virginia Children

## LaCrosse Encephalitis

LaCrosse encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) is caused by a virus spread only by the bite of the Treehole Mosquito.

Children and adults get sick between July and October when the Treehole Mosquito is most active.

The virus most often affects children under age 16. Symptoms include

- Headache
- Fever
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Drowsiness
- Disorientation

In severe cases, seizures or coma may occur. LaCrosse is rarely fatal, but usually requires hospitalization. Each year, 75-100 cases are reported nationwide. More cases occur in West Virginia than in any other state, approximately 50 cases per year.

#### The Treehole Mosquito Ochlerotatus (Aedes) triseriatus

The Treehole Mosquito breeds only in containers that hold water. Water-holding cavities in trees are it's natural habitat, but manmade containers are important breeding sites also.



Old tires, buckets, cans, bottles, planters, tire swings, toys, pet water bowls and any other kind of container that holds water make especially good breeding sites for the Treehole Mosquito.

#### Prevent LaCrosse Encephalitis

Remove anything that can hold water from around your yard or where children play.

Use mosquito repellants containing DEET **sparingly on children** before they play outdoors.

NEVER apply DEET to the face or hands of children, and wash children with soap & warm water when they come back in the house.

**Carefully** read and follow the label directions when using repellants.

If your children will be in a known high mosquito area, make sure they wear socks, shoes, light-colored long pants and long sleeves.

