



## *Aedes albopictus* Biology

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*Aedes albopictus* eggs are deposited in artificial containers, either just above the water level or on the surface of the water. Winter is passed in the egg stage. The immature stages occur mostly in artificial containers. This mosquito is also known as the Asian tiger mosquito. It is considered a domestic species because she seems to prefer the artificial breeding sites provided by people. For example, old tires, plastic tarps and other man-made containers. It readily feeds on people.

She is a very persistent and painful daytime biter. The tiger mosquito is an introduced species from Southeast Asia. It was first found in Brunswick County in 1990 in the Leland area. Since that time it has spread throughout the county, nearly eliminating the yellow fever mosquito and has become our most troublesome backyard mosquito. She is a weak but speedy flier. The tiger mosquito is a shy mosquito, and sensitive to the slightest movement by the host. She may bite one person many times in a short period to obtain her complete blood meal. She prefers to bite people below the waste and spends much of her time resting in the shrubbery in our backyards, waiting to ambush the unsuspecting.

*Aedes albopictus* cannot be managed by conventional mosquito spraying activities. Our mosquito sprayers are designed to work in the evening during the night time hours. The ULV sprayers rely on what is called a temperature inversion. This is when the ground temperature is warmer than the air temperature. The tiger mosquito prefers to fly during the daytime hours when air temperatures are warmer than ground temperatures. . The control and management of this mosquito is best achieved through source reduction. Tipping and tossing any containers in your back yards will break the reproductive cycle of this mosquito.