

Gardening Practices to Prevent Mosquito Breeding

About Community in Bloom

Community in Bloom (CIB) is a programme that was launched by the National Parks Board (NParks) in 2005. It aims to nurture a gardening culture among Singaporeans by encouraging and facilitating community gardening efforts. It is also an opportunity to build community bonds and strengthen social resilience in our City in Nature.



Share your love for nature and animals at
#NParksBuzz #AnimalBuzzSG

For more information, visit our website at www.nparks.gov.sg/cib or email us at CommunityInBloom@nparks.gov.sg

For more information on plants in Singapore, visit NParks Flora & Fauna Web at www.nparks.gov.sg/florafauweb

For more gardening resources and tips, visit go.gov.sg/gardening-resources

To learn more about our City in Nature, scan the QR code or visit www.nparks.gov.sg/CityInNature



This brochure features good gardening practices to prevent mosquito breeding while gardening at home or in community gardens.

We hope this brochure helps you to enjoy the therapeutic effects of gardening while keeping your community free of mosquitoes!

Growing Aquatic and Semi-aquatic Plants

Aquatic and semi-aquatic plants such as water lilies and sedges can add interest to a garden. These need to be grown fully or partially submerged in water. Here are some tips to enjoy them while preventing mosquitoes from breeding.



Tip #1: Introduce small fish to large water-containing pots or tanks, and ponds

Platies and guppies eat mosquito larvae and they help to add a point of interest to the garden.

Tip #2: Apply mosquito larvicide to the water

Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis (BTI) granules are a natural larvicide. They are environmentally friendly and safe for plants and aquatic animals.

Growing Plants that Collect Water

Some plants such as the Giant Taro (*Alocasia macrorrhizos*) and bromeliads (plants from the pineapple family, Bromeliaceae) may accumulate water in their leaf sheaths. Here are some tips to prevent this.



Giant Taro



Bromeliads

Tip #1: Flush water 'pockets' in plants thoroughly and frequently

Using fresh water from a hose or watering can, flush out water-collecting 'pockets' frequently (daily or every other day) to displace accumulated water and remove any mosquito eggs and larvae.



Tip #2: Apply mosquito larvicide to plant parts that collect water

Add BTI to plant parts that collect water. When using BTI, follow the manufacturer's recommendations. Do note that BTI is environmentally friendly and safe for plants and animals, such as mammals, birds and fish.



BTI granules may be in loose pellets or in a 'dunk' form.



BTI can be added to the 'cups' of pitcher plants to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.

General Housekeeping

A key factor to a successful and beautiful garden is good housekeeping and maintenance. A well-kept and maintained garden is not only aesthetically pleasing, but safe for all to enjoy!



Tip #1: Check for stagnant water in the garden frequently

Stagnant water may accumulate at various spots in the garden, such as pots, dishes, pails, drains and even in plants! Check areas in the garden that may collect stagnant water to prevent mosquito breeding.



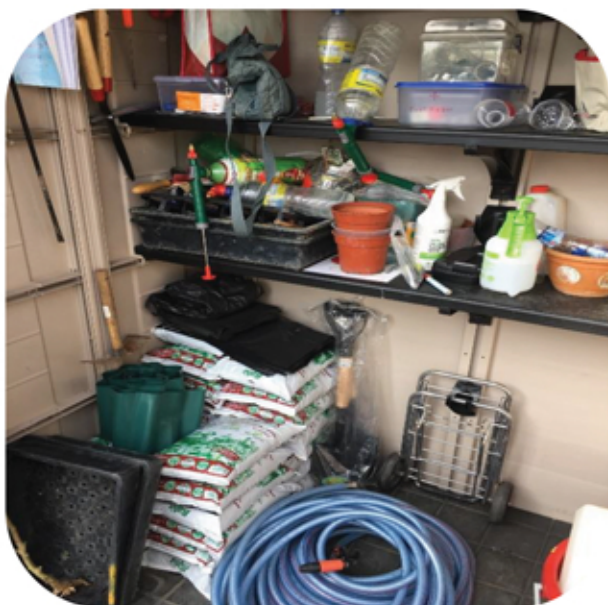
Tip #2: Pour away stagnant water in pots and dishes, and scrub the inner surfaces

Remove stagnant water that accumulates in pots, dishes and containers regularly. Scrub the inner surfaces of these items to remove any mosquito eggs that may stick to them.



Tip #3: Have a proper storage area for items that collect water, such as pots, dishes and pails

Keep unused pots, dishes, pails and containers in a dry, sheltered area to prevent water from accumulating in them.



Tip #4: Loosen clayey soil to allow water seepage

The surface of clayey soil can become dry and compacted over time, so water may collect on the surface. This is not good for plants because the water does not reach the roots, and it can also create conditions for mosquitoes to breed. Use a fork or trowel to loosen the soil regularly.



Tip #5: Clear fallen leaves from the ground and drains

Clear fallen leaves regularly as they can collect water and clog up drains. You can break the fallen leaves into smaller pieces to use as mulch for plants, or dispose of them in bags. Check and clear the drains regularly to prevent debris and water from accumulating.

