

How to fight encephalitis

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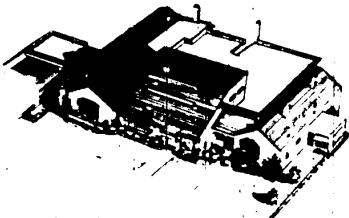
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There is a lot more to think about in the yard besides weeds, flowers and grass as the summer weather stretches. The wonderful weather also means that new crops of mosquitoes are on the way.

Outbreaks of mosquito-borne encephalitis in 13 states reached epidemic proportions last year in the worst outbreak of the disease since 1964. There were 633 reported cases involving at least 41 deaths. Michigan is the first state to report cases in 1976 and Windsor, Ontario, has reported two cases.

Michigan health officials are prepared for a massive spraying program to kill mosquitoes that transmit the deadly illness.

So a continuing program to attack mosquitoes on your property should be a must in many states for more reasons than comfort.

What may seem to be inconsequential amounts of stagnant water could well be the breeding ground for thousands of mosquitoes at your home, reports Sandra Conrad, a consumer information specialist.

"ONE OF the first things to do is to clean out rain gutters and downspouts to make sure no water is pooling there," she said. A child's sand pail, bucket or other

container forgotten in a corner of the garden also can collect water and become a mosquito breeding ground.

Bird baths and wading pools should be drained and refilled at least weekly, she said, and low-lying areas where water collects and stands after rains or lawn watering should be drained when possible.

All of this will help control mosquitoes on your property by eliminating their breeding grounds, she said, but it won't eliminate all mosquitoes.

Backyard barbecues, lawn and pool parties and the like can best be made bug-free by using a spray product that not only kills the mosquitoes already there, but also acts as a repellent to others.

But for the best insurance against insect bites whenever you're outdoors, Mrs. Conrad recommends using a quality insect repellent. When applied properly to clothing and exposed skin, it provides effective protection against both mosquitoes and biting flies.

IT IS FAR too early to say how much of a threat encephalitis will be in the United States this year. Health experts hope that any outbreak can be kept well below last year's levels because of increased public awareness of how serious the problem is.

The encephalitis virus is carried by birds such as sparrows and blackbirds. Mosquitoes pick up the disease from the birds and pass it on to humans.

The disease causes stiff necks, headaches, vomiting, drowsiness, fever and in the most serious cases, coma and death. The very old, the infirm and the very young are generally most susceptible.

Kronich to speak

"The Social and Emotional Aspects of the Learning Disabled Teenager" will be the topic chosen by Mrs. Doreen Kronich, director of the Integra Foundation for the Learning Disabled when she speaks at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 20 in Waterman Center of Schoolcraft College.

Mrs. Kronich, mother of three, was founder of the Ontario Association for Learning Disabled when she speaks in 1963, which expanded into a national association.

She is past president of the Ontario and Canadian ACLD, contributing editor of Academics Therapy and member of the professional advisory board of the Journal of Learning Disabilities.

She is also author of two books, "They Too Can Succeed" and "The Learning Disabled Adolescent," both of which will be on sale at the meeting.

Sweet Adelines set 'September Strut'

The Farmington Hills chapter of Sweet Adelines, Inc., will hold a dinner dance, called "September Strut" in North Rose-dale Park Community House Sept. 18, beginning at 8 p.m.

A buffet dinner, dancing, door prizes and entertainment are on the evening's agenda with a spotlight on the Farmington Hills chorus and a quartet, the Amersboroughs. Ticket information is available by calling Cathy Schaefer, 832-5119.

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