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*Mr. W. Ray of Lincoln was the winner of an International Harvester lawn mower during our Open House June 1, 2, 3.*

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# Mosquito Boom Hazardous

The hordes of mosquitoes which seem to descend every time you step out the door this spring may be more than a simple annoyance, a Michigan State University pesticide research specialist warns.

An unusually large mosquito population may be spreading encephalitis, dog heartworm, allergies and secondary infections, says Dr. Harold Newson, MSU entomologist.

Heavy rains in late April caused flooded areas where mosquito larvae developed. A cold spell followed by warm weather then triggered mass hatchings rather than the usual gradual development of the mosquito population, explains Newson.

Just how many cases of mosquito-borne encephalitis have occurred in Michigan, is not yet known, but there are in the state a number of mosquito species known to transmit the disease. The disease, which strikes children primarily, often goes unreported or is diagnosed as aseptic meningitis. Many people have minor symptoms but don't see a doctor.

In Ohio, however, an intensive research program for the past several years has revealed a large number of cases of California encephalitis, probably transmitted by mosquitoes.

Dog heartworm is another mosquito-borne disease that has increased markedly during the past five years, Newson says. Hunting dogs in particular are vulnerable to the parasite. Preventive and curative drugs can curb the disease, but are expensive, impractical or risk the dog's health.

Michigan is one of the few states without tax-supported mosquito control programs. Here, each county or municipality deals with mosquito control in its own way. Funds for Lansing's control, for example, come from its department of parks and recreation. If budget cuts are necessary, such minor operations as mosquito control often suffer.

Control must come through broadscale independent programs, Newson says. Permanent drainage ditches in marshy areas, implantation of mosquito larva-eating fish, and use of insecticides as a last resort are effective and inexpensive when part of a wide area tax-supported system.

A bill that would authorize establishing voluntary mosquito abatement districts throughout the state is now in committee. "If the bill passes," Newson said, "such programs would probably cost each citizen about as much as one can of mosquito repellent."

## Sod Waterway Used For Runoff

Move that surface water off your land by using the easy method - a sod waterway, says a Michigan State University soil and water expert.

"When surface water runoff is uncontrolled, severe soil erosion and sediment pollution of natural waterways can occur," says Donald J. Schaner of MSU's Department of Resource Development. "In addition, deep gullies may develop, making it difficult or even impossible to move farm equipment."

Schaner says that temporary waterways can be created by simply lifting the plow or other tillage implements when crossing the runoff area. Permanent sod, cover crops or previous crop residues left in the waterway tend to reduce runoff rates.

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## Snapper For people who hate picking up after themselves.

It's not just luck that one of the largest grass catchers you can buy has our mower attached to it. When we designed the Snapper, we weren't trying to build a better mower, we were trying to build the best mower, and we did, right down to the grass catcher. The Snapper Cornel has a big 6 bushel grass catcher attachment that unloads in seconds. The V-18 and V-21 have a large 3 bushel bag. Whichever one you choose they all pick up grass, leaves and twigs. Work less and enjoy it more!



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