

USING MOSQUITO DUNKS FOR PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF MOSQUITO LARVAE

Mosquito dunks provide a more environmentally friendly method of mosquito control than the use of pyrethroid-based sprays. According to Doug Tallamy - Entomologist, University of Delaware, the pyrethroid-based insecticides used by mosquito foggers indiscriminately kill all insects, not just mosquitos. Targeting adult mosquitos is the worst and by far the most expensive approach to mosquito control, because mosquitos are best controlled in the larval stage. The active ingredient in mosquito dunks is a larvicide, *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *israelensis*, commonly known as Bti. Using Bti you control the mosquitos and only the mosquitos, without the use of harmful insecticides.

The video below gives instructions for Doug Tallamy's method of effectively controlling mosquitos without harming other insects.

Video - "Here's the BEST WAY TO KILL MOSQUITOES INSTEAD OF FOGGING"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqcDZDNtP-0>

Presented by Doug Tallamy - Entomologist, University of Delaware
Founder of HOME GROWN NATIONAL PARK™ a grassroots call-to-action to regenerate biodiversity and ecosystem function by planting native plants and creating new ecological networks.

Instructions and notes included on video youtube site:

It's cheap, easy, and it doesn't kill the beneficial insects in your yard!

- 1) Fill a bucket with water.
- 2) Add straw or hay and let it ferment for a few days in a sunny spot. The resulting brew will be irresistible to female mosquitos.
- 3) After a few days the mosquitos have laid their eggs, drop in a mosquito dunk tablet. Mosquito dunk tablets can be purchased at most hardware stores, and contain *Bacillus-thuringiensis* (Bt), a natural larvicide. The eggs will hatch and the larvae will die.

Other methods of use are given in the "Directions For Use" section of the manufacturer's specimen label sheet that your mosquito dunk is attached to. This sheet contains important information concerning safety, first aid, application rates, and proper storage and disposal.

Things to remember when using mosquito dunks:

Dunks must be placed in water to be effective.

Dunks are pretty solid and are difficult to break up but they can be broken to maximize the amount of places you can place them. Each dunk provides coverage for a 10' x 10' area of water or 100 square feet with a maximum of 2 feet depth of water. For example, splitting the dunk into four pieces means that each piece would cover about 25 square feet.

One dunk lasts approximately 30 days after initial wetting whether they are inundated with water or not. Drying periods count as time used.