

In2Care[®] Mosquito Trap – Troubleshoot Questions



Are all the Traps used in the shade 100% of the time?

Per the instructions and the stewardship program, the Traps have to be kept out of the sun. They are black and designed to optimize attractiveness along with the odor produced by the yeast tablets and shortly after that, the smell of other mosquito larvae. Breeding sites in shaded areas are preferred by Aedes mosquitoes. Being black, they will absorb the sun's heat and even the slight cooling effect of evaporating water, excess heat can kill the fungus and make the pyriproxyfen growth regulator in the powder sticky or even melt, which will negate the dissemination effect.

How many larvae should be in the Traps?

Larvae density depends on the overall area mosquito population. If light, then you should still see a few larvae in the Trap. If heavy, there should be several larvae even several dozen. We've seen over a hundred in some Traps. If no or few larvae, you should consider moving the Trap to another shaded area.

How long have you had the Traps deployed?

Since you are primarily targeting the next generation of mosquitos, you should see a good reduction in population in 2-3 weeks. If you need a quicker response, it is recommended to do a good misting barrier with a micro-encapsulated pyrethroid. You also may consider putting the In2Care Traps out prior to, or at the beginning of the season. If this is done you can keep the population under control before it gets to a level that prompts a customer call.

Where in the yard are the Traps deployed?

We have seen good results putting one close to the blood meal where humans spend time such as a deck and another further out towards the green belt or neighbor's yard along the fence line to help get the pyriproxyfen growth regulator as far out as possible (closer to adjacent breeding sites) since Aedes mosquitoes will fly short distances for a blood meal or breeding site.

How many Traps are you using?

According to the label, you can use from 10-15 Traps per acre. Most yards can get by with 2-3 Traps. However, you will need to consider not only the homeowner's yard but the surrounding areas, which may contain many inaccessible breeding sites. If that is the case, the higher number of Traps should be used. When determining the area do count tall grass and ground cover areas as well as bush areas and decks that harbor mosquitoes, however do not count the house square footage or open, dry areas that don't harbor or provide breeding sites.

Do all of your Traps have water in them?

If you provide service in a dry climate, you may need to check back in 2 weeks or so to make sure water is still in the Trap. If no water, there will be no breeding or attractiveness to the station. However, rain or any vertical water source will add water and if there is enough water or rain, it will fill to the proper level and still maintain more than enough growth regulator in the Trap to kill 100% of the larvae. If in a wetter area, it is possible to go 4 weeks without adding additional water. Keep in mind that if the Trap runs dry before the 4-week gauze change, you can fill it up with water and the pyriproxyfen is as good as if it never dried up at all.

Is the water in the Trap very dirty at change out?

Per the label, you can dump remaining water on the ground and fill the Trap with fresh water at each gauze change. However, you may get quicker results if you leave a little of the old water in the Trap and fill with fresh water as leaving some of the older water in the Trap can help attract the Aedes mosquito more quickly, at least until the dissolved yeast tablets take full effect. However, it is important that all organic matter such as leaves and grass clippings, etc. be 'fished' out at this time. It is also important to note that leaving too much old, dirtier water in the Trap may have the opposite effect and be less attractive to Aedes mosquitoes.

Do the neighbors have a lot of green area; bushes, groundcover, etc?

It is very important to understand the breeding areas surrounding your customer's yard as Aedes can fly as far as 200 yards for a blood meal but typically limits its travels to around 20 yards. Putting a Trap close to a potential adjacent breeding area such as along a fence may be advisable.

Is your customer on a green belt?

For the reason above, this is important to know. Also, some green belts have pockets and standing bodies of water that quite often breed Culex (night biter) mosquitoes. If this is the case, In2Care Traps will help control some of this population, albeit not as effective or as fast as the Aedes (day biter) populations. However, if there are both genera present, Aedes will help spread the growth regulator to some of those areas because of their egg-laying habits. Aedes and Culex quite often share breeding sites. However, if it is a larger body of water, In2Care will not be effective because even with the dissemination effect of In2Care, you will not achieve enough transfer of growth regulator to reach 10 parts per billion needed to control the larvae there. In this case, a manually applied growth regulator such as altosid may be needed if the larger body of water cannot be removed. Check with local regulations before applying.

What direction is the yard facing?

Mosquitoes tend to rest in shaded areas near their breeding site and blood meal. In the summer, they tend to prefer cooler, generally north and east facings away from direct sunlight. Pay particular attention to bushes, ground covers and other potential resting areas in these areas and consider Trap placement there.

Have you looked in the yard to eliminate obvious breeding sites/pockets of water?

This is an important aspect of any mosquito program. Reducing these pockets allows In2Care's dissemination of the growth regulator to build up to the 10 PPB level quicker and more consistently for quicker and more sustainable control in the sites you can't see or get to.

When are your customers getting bitten?

This goes back to the species of mosquitoes. Culex bites primarily at night. Although not labeled for Culex control, In2Care will help reduce this night biter population over time.* However, since some Culex may be coming from dirty water areas or large bodies of water, you may never see a level of control that will satisfy the customer until those areas are separately dealt with.

Are they getting bit or do they only see mosquitoes or other insects flying around?

One of the anecdotal features of In2Care many applicators have noticed is from the fungus part of the active ingredients; Beauveria bassiana. This fungus is there to kill the female mosquito in 8-10 days while allowing her to keep laying eggs in several places (spreading the growth regulator) prior to dying. The additional feature is the fact that although she is still attracted the blood meal, she may not bite as the fungus has made her 'sick'. Asking this question is important as is explaining it to the customer. This has alleviated a few issues in the past.

What other suppression methods are you using; repellents, pyrethroids, etc. and where are you spraying/misting?

If you are using a repellent such as garlic oil or Ecovida, it is important that you either spray/fog first or cover the In2Care Traps prior to application. Those treatments are repellents and if they get on the Trap, it may keep the female mosquito from visiting the Trap. A good micro-cap pyrethroid or other insecticide is usually not an issue as a misting barrier as the encapsulation tends to negate repellency issues.

Did you experience rains after a drought?

Rains after a drought or heavy rains can trigger several things. First, they can initiate a resurgence of mosquitoes usually with a week or so as dormant eggs hatch and go through the mosquito life cycle. Second, heavy rains are conducive to the flood water mosquito. They have the ability to fly further and show quick population build ups. Fortunately, they usually subside quickly. In2Care will not control this mosquito. Finally, these rains can contribute to an Aedes/Culex 'bloom' that can overwhelm any control procedure. In this case, a residual misting barrier can knock down the population until In2Care can build back up in the environment where the rains may have washed out or reduced the growth regulator to less than 10 PPB in pockets of water. Communication with the homeowner is important to let them know that In2Care will need a little time to knock to population down again.

Are the Traps deployed next to a horizontal water source such as a sprinkler?

Putting In2Care too near sprinklers that throw water horizontally may allow water to enter the Trap in the opening between the lid and pot. This may wet the gauze on the floater washing off active ingredients and wetting the gauze enough to sink part of the gauze/floater. Vertical rain coming down on the lid is not a problem as it allows the gauze to remain dry.

When the Trap is opened, is the gauze dry or undisturbed?

Whenever at a customer's house, it is important to open the lid and check on the water level and especially the condition of the gauze. It may have gotten wet or it may have been disturbed by an animal such as a racoon. Homeowners may have also moved or 'inspected' the unit, wetting the gauze in the process.

Why do some gauzes look lighter than others when removed from the sachet?

This occasionally happens, however usually is not an issue. There are millions of particles even on a gauze that appears darker than normal---more than enough to infect hundreds of mosquitoes. However, it is recommended that the sachet be shaken well before opening to maximize the amount of active ingredient 'dust' that is on the electrostatic gauze. That way dissemination is optimized and dust that can be on the gauze will not be emptied in the pot. It takes very little remaining dust in the sachet emptied into the pot water to be 100% effective for several weeks so try to get as much of it on the gauze as possible. If the gauze is totally black, please note the Lot number on the sachet and call your Vesperis rep for replacement. This rare but has happened.

When the sachet is opened, does fine dust fall off the gauze?

This is very important as it confirms the active ingredient dust has not gotten too hot and remains viable for pick up and dissemination by the mosquito. If no dust falls off the gauze when removing it from the sachet or no dust is on your gloves when handling, check for clumps of product on the gauze or in the bottom of the sachet. If you find plaquettes in the bottom of the sachet or clumps are present instead of a fine dust do not use as you will not get the transfer effect that is so important for control.

Also See: <https://youtu.be/Lhells69aUM>

How do you store your sachets in the office in your service vehicle?

It is best to store sachets in an office refrigerator until use. If sachets are used within 2-3 months of purchase storage in a continuously air-conditioned room is also fine. When in the service vehicle, the sachets must remain at a temperature lower than 80 degrees F until applied in the Trap. Avoid direct sunlight. Using a cooler bag with a freeze pack or thermal 'Igloo' type container is highly recommended. If sachets get too hot in a service vehicle, it will kill the fungus spores and melt the growth regulator to a point where it will not transfer to the mosquito. You will still attain 100% control of the larvae in the Trap, but no dissemination, which is the key way In2Care controls mosquitoes.

If biting is mostly at night, have you examined the area for other water sources such as small ponds, storm drains or manhole covers?

When inspecting the property, don't forget to note any sewer covers on or adjacent to the property as well as storm drains in front of the house. Also note any other bodies of water as there is a good chance these areas may be a Culex breeding site.

Have you managed the customers expectation of how quickly or completely In2Care can work?

Nothing kills 100% of a mosquito population. Population peaks and valleys are to be expected especially after heavy rains or rains after a period of drought. Established In2Care systems do an excellent job of controlling mosquitos in a greener sustainable way. However, after events like this it may be necessary to do a 'booster' spray or at a minimum, let the customer know that this can happen but In2Care will start working again.

Have you downloaded and read the Q&A and Application Tips documents on www.in2care.org/marketing?

** Even though In2Care can control many Culex mosquito populations, per the label you must have Aedes albopictus or aegypti present to use In2Care.*