One common misconception is that bird baths are associated with breeding mosquitoes, essentially turning your backyard into a mosquito breeding ground. This is not true, as long as you keep debris from piling up in the bath and keep it filled with fresh water, mosquitoes will not seek this out as a place to breed. So keep your bird baths clean and ready for birds to enjoy.

Other Safe Ways to Control Mosquitoes
For Large Yards or Parks

Why are Mosquitoes a Health Issue?

Mosquitoes can be more than just a nuisance. Several common species (such as Culex and Aedes) can carry the West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis and other diseases that impact humans. West Nile Virus can produce mild flu-like symptoms or more serious manifestations that can be fatal. West Nile Virus first appeared on Long Island in 1999. It has since become endemic across the U.S., causing 1,131 fatalities in a decade.

Here on Long Island, mosquitoes are a persistent problem. They breed in pools of standing water, and populations can increase dramatically after consistent rains. Mosquitoes can live from two weeks to several months, and only need a small puddle to breed several hundred larvae. Their eggs hatch approximately five days after they are laid, so if water is left standing longer than that it can provide a breeding ground for multiple generations of mosquitoes. Female mosquitoes seek blood to fuel their egg production.

Some mosquito species fly only a few hundred feet from where they breed while others can fly for miles. The Mosquito Magnet® is a patented device that works by releasing a continuous stream of carbon dioxide (CO2) to draw mosquitoes to the trap. With patented “Counterflow™” technology, mosquitoes are vacuumed into a net where they dehydrate and die. The device can also be used with scientifically proven attractant scents such as octenol for added efficacy.

It is sold at Home Depot and Lowe’s. Be mindful that it is an expensive product, with prices ranging over $500, depending on the retailer.

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The Rush Hampton Mosquito Catcher®
We have gotten very positive feedback about the Rush Hampton Mosquito Catcher from some trusted sources. The catcher is an electric device that does not use propane. Therefore, it does not release any additional CO2 into the atmosphere.

This product can be purchased from online retailers like Amazon for around $90.

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In light of the growing interest in non-toxic mosquito repellents, especially among parents of young children, The Sustainability Institute at Molloy College researched the availability of Lemon Eucalyptus personal repellents at Long Island retail stores.

The product availability survey found three different brands of personal repellents that contain the active ingredient recommended by the CDC. Two of the products are Repel® Lemon Eucalyptus and Cutter® Lemon Eucalyptus. Both are carried online but Repel® is found in Target and Walmart stores. The third repellent is found primarily at health food stores. It is Kiss My Face® Swy Flotter. The cost of these items ranges from $6 to $10 for a 4 oz spray bottle.

The good news is that the products are available if you know what to search for and where to look. However, the bad news is that the availability of the products is inconsistent and many people may discover that the natural repellents are a challenge to find. Fortunately, these products are also available on the internet at well-known sites such as Amazon.com.

The websites for Repel and Cutter do not sell the products and instead send people to a list of local stores, however it is worth the effort to find them. They are easy to apply, non-toxic and effective.

This recommendation was based on efficacy study results and positive feedback from many Long Islanders who found garlic juice very effective. Two products we recommend are Garlic Barrier® and Mosquito Barrier® (see below), which can be difficult to find at local stores, however it is worth the effort to find them. Keeping your yard chemical free and non-toxic while eliminating mosquitoes.

There are non-toxic alternatives for personal repellents.

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