

Outdoor Living

The Latest Buzz On Defeating Mosquitoes

(NAPSA)—Science, it seems, has finally caught up to nature in the fight against mosquitoes and other biting insects.

Controlling insects used to come down to a choice between chemical repellents or wholesale spraying of toxic chemicals—neither a very attractive alternative, especially if young children are in the vicinity. Now, a technological advance may make it possible to achieve a more permanent result without the downsides.

How? By using the bugs' own instincts to eliminate them before they have a chance to breed.

At a time when reports of West Nile virus, encephalitis and other diseases transmitted by insect bites have made people jittery, that's no small achievement. The consumer version of the technology—a propane-powered device from Frontgate, called "The Mosquito Magnet," is effective in yards, parks and just about anywhere people like to enjoy the outdoors.

The technology was developed by Rhode Island-based American Biophysics working closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Coast Guard first used the technology to reclaim a Bahamian island that had been considered uninhabitable because of its large population of mosquitoes, sand flies, black flies and other biting insects. After deploying the product for just a few weeks, researchers returned to find the island virtually biter-free.

The technology doesn't risk breeding stronger, pesticide-resistant insects because it uses no dangerous chemicals. The science behind the Mosquito Magnet has been called elegant in its simplicity: Biting insects are attracted to people by the moist carbon dioxide in our breath. The unit emits a warm, moist plume of carbon dioxide, which pests mistake for the exhaled breath of their prey. Irresistibly drawn from



A new device uses insects' own instincts to get rid of them.

an area of about an acre (one-half acre for the residential model), bugs are vacuumed into a net where they dehydrate and die.

This system is not harmful to the environment and mosquitoes cannot become immune. In addition, dehydration does not spread potentially dangerous bacteria into the air as is possible with electric bug zappers.

Mosquito Magnet, which operates silently for 21 days on a 20-pound propane tank, comes in two sizes: a \$1,295 "Pro" model, capable of covering a full acre; and a \$795 residential model that covers one-half acre. Both require no electricity so they can be positioned almost anywhere, including alongside ponds and other potential breeding areas. The only required maintenance is replacing the net and refilling the propane tank about every three weeks. Because the device plays on instincts unique to biting insects, the new technology is harmless to ladybugs and other beneficial insects.

To learn more, you can log on to www.frontgate.com or call 1-800-626-6488 (code MM01).