



## FYN Garden Q & A Series

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Yards & Neighborhoods



### FYN Topic: Mosquito Breeding Sites

**Question:** With the large amount of rain, water is standing in nearly every ditch and empty lot. I even see water in the leaf 'boots' on my bromeliads. Are small places like these also breeding sites for mosquitoes?  
Robert, Cape Coral

**Answer:** Yes, mosquitoes will breed in as little as a half-cup of water that collects in any type of shallow container or puddle. Eliminating nearby yard sites reduces breeding populations close to home without using a pesticide. Common breeding sites and suggested solutions follow.

LOCATION	SOLUTION
• Potted plants with pan	Don't overwater, remove pans for right now
• Drainage ditch or swale	Remove obstructing debris to water flow
• Low spots that hold water	Plant as rain garden with grassy natives
• Plugged roof gutters	Clean out debris regularly
• Bird Bath	Change water frequently
• Composter	Cover or turn materials at top
• Top of rain barrel	Drill tiny holes into the lid
• Planters without drain holes	Remove or place on covered lanai
• Poorly maintained pools	Follow recommended maintenance
• Bromeliads	Flush to remove larvae once per week
• Seagrass or large leaves	Remove for season or mow over
• Puddle on lanai	Use pool brush to disperse water
• Boats	Cover or turn upside down
• Toys, wheelbarrows	Remove or keep under cover

### Useful Links

<http://www.floridayards.org>  
<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>  
<http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>  
<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu>

Thomas Becker is an extension agent for the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) program at the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the Horticulture Help Desk at 239-533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. or by emailing [Extgardener@leegov.com](mailto:Extgardener@leegov.com). Visit his Web page at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>

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