Ornamental Ponds and Catch Basins

A common feature of many landscape designs is the use of ornamental ponds. These ponds add beauty and tranquility when properly maintained but may present a health hazard when neglected. There are several factors that accelerate mosquito production. Hot temperatures during July and August speed up mosquito development. Water that is stagnant for a week is a good source for producing mosquitoes.

This picture shows water that is quite clean but the pump has not been running and mosquito larvae are being produced. Inadvertently residents may be the greatest sources of mosquitoes in a neighborhood. Notice the abandon pools with "green water" that could produce hundreds of thousands of mosquitoes.

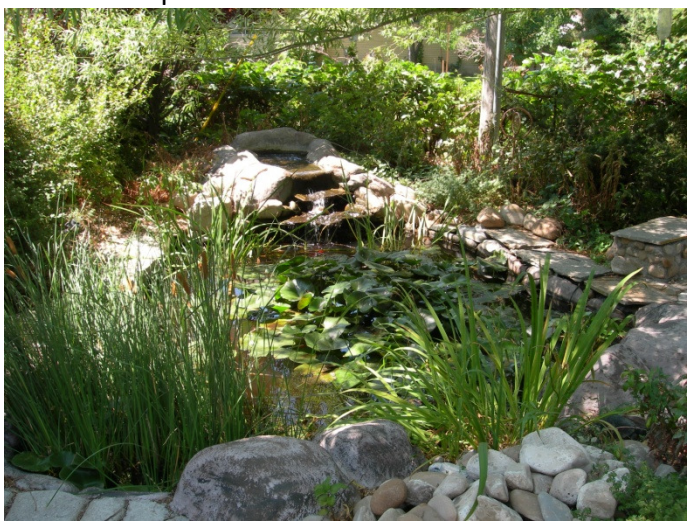
Abandon swimming pool

Neglected ornamental pond

What can be done to enjoy ponds and avoid producing your own mosquitoes?

- Insure pumps are working. Most of our local mosquitoes don't do well in water that is moving.
- Drain pools that are not going to be used. Particularly make sure no residual water remains in low areas often where pump is located.

- If your pond doesn't have a pump because you are growing aquatic plants you can still have a mosquito free yard. This beautifully vegetated back yard pond has fish but no mosquitoes.



- Mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*) are effective predators for mosquitoes but Utah County is **not** currently providing these.

- Call Utah County Mosquito Abatement for environmentally friendly products that can be put in ponds for mosquito control. Personnel will deliver one or two products to your home. **Altosid** is a growth regulator and **VectoLex** is a bacteria spore & toxin that targets mosquito larvae, effective for 30 days. See more details under "Biological Control".

Grated catch basins throughout our residential areas continue to be a major source of mosquito breeding. Runoff water from storms and irrigation practices may be trapped and remain for days. This is the perfect habitat for the house mosquito, *Culex pipiens* to lay its eggs. Mosquito abatement bikers cycle through much of the county looking for these sites. During 2010 over 17,000 basins were treated with Altosid or VectoLex.

Nearly 8,000 new catch basins were identified, coordinates marked and added to our data base for future surveillance.

Businesses, schools and churches may have many of these mosquito hatcheries hiding below their parking lots.