Mosquito Threat to the United States

Mosquito-borne diseases are often associated with developing world nations, but their impact can also be felt in the developed world. Take the United States, which is home to about 150 varieties of mosquito: More than a nuisance, diseases spread by mosquitoes in the US including Western and Eastern Equine Encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis and West Nile Virus, affect thousands and kill hundreds of people each year.

Vector-Borne Disease Underestimated in US

Most experts agree that mosquito-borne disease in the United States is often misdiagnosed or not reported at all. This issue is especially important considering indigenous cases of dengue that have been discovered in Florida and South Texas where most medical professionals are not trained to recognize its symptoms. West Nile Virus is another disease transmitted to humans by mosquitoes with thousands of cases every year in the US. There are no medications to treat or vaccines to prevent WNV infection, so vector control plays a vital role in protecting public health.

Bayer Video Explains Why Vector-Control is Important

Despite this public health risk, many local governments in the US have been forced to cut their vector control budget as the economy continues to put a strain on public finances. In response, Bayer has launched a campaign to raise awareness about the mosquito-borne threat, including this video titled Mosquito Control and Why It’s Important to You.

Bayer is a leading provider of mosquito insecticides in the US and will introduce a new product – DeltaGard – to the market later this year.

Do Not Leave It Too Late

To a large extent the mosquito control professionals are effective in the US, but Bayer’s Gordon Morrison warned local authorities against being lulled into a false sense of security. “The more effective they [the professionals] are, the fewer mosquitoes there are to annoy people and to spread disease. Therefore, it’s easy for people to forget about the important job they do which can jeopardize funding. When mosquito borne disease outbreaks hit the news, adequate funding becomes available but unfortunately, reactive measures are usually too late and not as effective.”