

Dragonflies

Q: Are they available in Canada for bio-control of WNV mosquito vectors?

A: Effective control depends on suitable habitat and may vary between species.

At time of writing there are no known commercial sources of dragonflies in Canada. However, NIC, Natural Insect Control (nic@niagara.com, www.natural-insect-control.com) is investigating the possibility of importing dragonflies gathered in the wild from the US.

Information on how to encourage native dragonflies is available from the Canadian Wildlife Federation. See "Build a Dragonfly Pond" at http://www.cwf-fcf.org/pages/nww2001/projects/project27_e.htm

In Japan, where cement-lined dragonfly ponds are promoting conservation awareness and help compensate for declining wetland habitats, school children are encouraged to remove predator fish so dragonflies will flourish. Ref: Dragonfly Pond Restoration Promotes Conservation Awareness in Japan Richard Primack, Hiromi Kobori, Seiwa Mori
Conservation Biology
Volume 14, Issue 5, Page 1553, Oct 2000
(Can be viewed on this site at: http://www.ccheinfo.com/pdf/dragonfly_japan.pdf)

Also, retention basins are a good medium for raising nymphs, providing there is vegetation in and around the pond, particularly reed species like bullrushes.

Note: Ponds subject to vegetation control (herbiciding and harvesting) would not be good as long as these practices continue. As well, such ponds may targeted for mosquito larviciding by pesticides which could kill dragonflies as well.

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