

Collect mosquito eggs & larvae

Sciensano

Sciensano is a scientific institution where public health, animal health and food safety are the main priorities. Scientists are responsible for performing studies concerning epidemiology, infectious diseases and humans and animals, and health risks of chemical, physical and biological nature. All these activities take place in the different sites of Sciensano in and around Brussels. For more than 120 years, health and science have been at the heart of Sciensano. To make this happen, more than 1000 employees of different services commit daily to a better and healthier world.

Collect mosquito eggs and larvae in your garden

Tropical viruses, like West Nile virus, are already present in Europe for a long time. West Nile virus has not yet been detected in Belgium, but cases of the virus in humans and animals have been reported in our neighboring countries. This makes risk analysis of high importance in terms of creating a preparedness plan in case of an introduction of West Nile virus in Belgium. This is why studies were conducted to assess if native mosquito species are capable of transmitting West Nile virus to humans or animals. Seen that we strive to stay as close to the natural conditions as possible, we used mosquito larvae from nature to perform the experiments. In order to collect sufficient larvae, a post was launched on the social media channels of Sciensano to encourage citizens to search for mosquito larvae. The help of the citizens allowed us to obtain enough data in one mosquito season to decide whether or not Belgian mosquitoes can pass West Nile virus.



Sciensano and Citizen Science

Sciensano focuses heavily on public health. Therefore, the cooperation of citizens in our research plays an important role. To conduct fully-fledged research, data is needed on environmental components, treatment strategies, and preventive measures for infectious diseases. Citizens can contribute to our studies through citizen science by sharing data regarding their activities via a monitoring system, collecting organisms for analysis or by sharing preferences on dietary patterns. Moreover, citizen science is an important part of raising awareness among citizens about the health risks associated with certain products or lifestyles. Participation in a citizen science project allows citizens to proactively change their behavior to lead a healthier life.

CALL TO ACTION

Citizens of Edegem and Wilrijk (postal codes 2650 and 2610) can contact us during the mosquito season of 2025, which runs from April until October, in case they spot mosquito larvae in their garden and would like to give them to us.

More information is available on Sciensano's [website](#) (in Dutch and French), [LinkedIn](#) and [Bluesky](#).

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