

Do you have a rain garden or rain barrel?



We are researchers with the University of Illinois seeking participants for a study of privately-owned rain barrels and rain gardens in the Champaign-Urbana area. The purpose of our study is to identify whether there are conditions that can allow mosquitoes to develop in these two common tools for managing rainwater.

Participants in our study will initially be asked to answer a few questions related to the design, construction and maintenance of their rain garden or rain barrels. We would also like to re-visit homes with rain gardens throughout the summer (June to August) to check them for standing water and mosquitoes a few days after rain storms. Rain barrels of study participants will be examined for mosquitoes on 1 to 3 occasions (approximately once per month) during the summer.

Information collected from our study will be gladly shared with each participant. While we expect that rain barrels and rain gardens seldom produce mosquitoes, our hope is that this study can reveal ways to manage these tools that further minimizes this risk.

We are looking for homeowners with rain gardens or rain barrels to participate in our study. If you would like to participate or have questions, please contact stormwater@life.illinois.edu, or call Catherine Wangen (734-308-8841) or Andrew Mackay (225-439-7486) at the Department of Entomology, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL