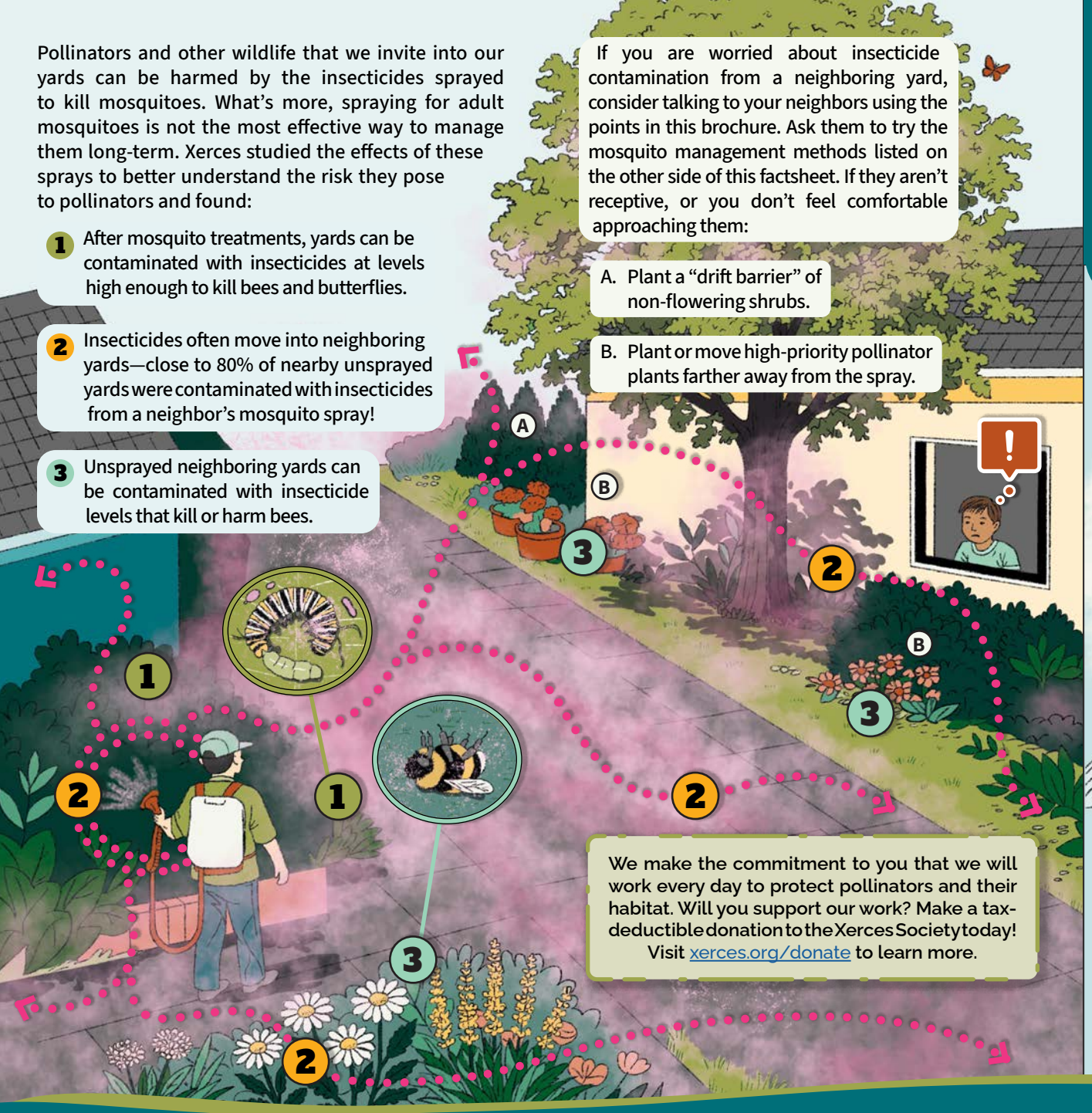
Pollinators and other wildlife that we invite into our yards can be harmed by the insecticides sprayed to kill mosquitoes. What's more, spraying for adult mosquitoes is not the most effective way to manage them long-term. Xerces studied the effects of these sprays to better understand the risk they pose to pollinators and found:

1. After mosquito treatments, yards can be contaminated with insecticides at levels high enough to kill bees and butterflies.
2. Insecticides often move into neighboring yards—close to 80% of nearby unsprayed yards were contaminated with insecticides from a neighbor's mosquito spray!
3. Unsprayed neighboring yards can be contaminated with insecticide levels that kill or harm bees.

If you are worried about insecticide contamination from a neighboring yard, consider talking to your neighbors using the points in this brochure. Ask them to try the mosquito management methods listed on the other side of this factsheet. If they aren't receptive, or you don't feel comfortable approaching them:

A. Plant a "drift barrier" of non-flowering shrubs.

B. Plant or move high-priority pollinator plants farther away from the spray.



We make the commitment to you that we will work every day to protect pollinators and their habitat. Will you support our work? Make a tax-deductible donation to the Xerces Society today! Visit xerces.org/donate to learn more.

Smart Mosquito Management at Home

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF WITHOUT HARMING POLLINATORS

Learn about simple and environmentally friendly practices to effectively manage mosquitoes instead of using insecticides!

Acknowledgments

Funding provided by Carroll Petrie Foundation, Galanthus Foundation Trust, Horne Family Foundation, and One Hive Foundation. TEXT: Xerces Society staff. ARTWORK: Madison Sankovitz & Maya Hutagalung. LAYOUT: Sara Morris.

26-017_01

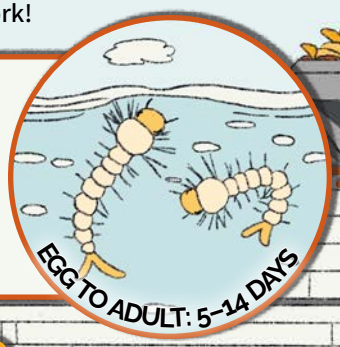
XERCES SOCIETY for Invertebrate Conservation

PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE MOSQUITO POPULATIONS

You can dramatically reduce mosquito populations, especially when neighbors work together. These steps may appear simple, but they work!

XERCES SOCIETY
for Invertebrate Conservation

REMOVE STANDING WATER, as that is where mosquitoes lay their eggs. Mosquitoes can reproduce in a bottle cap-sized amount of water. Dump water from plant pots and buckets, and make sure your gutters aren't clogged. If you have a bird bath or pet water bowls, dump and refill them weekly, since mosquitoes can complete their life cycle in 5–14 days!



SPREAD THE WORD! Mosquito management is most effective at the neighborhood or community level. The more people who remove stagnant water, the fewer mosquitoes there will be.

Convincing your friends and neighbors to remove stagnant water will have a big impact—you can even offer to help them!

USE PREVENTATIVE MEASURES to avoid being bitten:

Use a fan when sitting outdoors on a porch or patio, as mosquitoes can't fly in even light winds.

Check that window screens are intact, so mosquitoes can't get inside.

Wear long sleeves and repellent when mosquitoes are active.

Visit the Xerces page, Effective Mosquito Management for more resources:

PESTICIDE FREE

KEEP WATER MOVING. You can stop mosquitoes from breeding in a pond by adding a small pump or water feature.

Add protective screening to the inlet to prevent the pump from pulling in insects that eat larval mosquitoes, like dragonfly and damselfly nymphs!