



Ashford Pollinator Pathway News

By Jennifer Sterling-Folker, July 2025



Its mosquito season in Ashford & we have a bumper crop of them this year! Unfortunately, many people turn to pesticides & **mosquito fogging** to rid their yards of mosquitos, but these methods don't discriminate between killing "bad" bugs like mosquitos and "good" bugs like monarch butterflies & bees. Even if you don't use mosquito fogging on your property, your neighbor might, which can lead to **pesticide drift** into your yard -- banned in CT since 2018 but violations still regularly occur. Want a better option? Meet the...

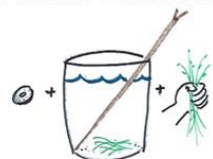


MOSQUITO BUCKET OF DOOM

Attributed to Doug Tallamy, an entomologist at the University of Delaware, co-founder of Homegrown Parks, & author of *Bringing Nature Home* (2007) & *Nature's Best Hope* (2019), this is a **safe, eco-friendly, effective, & inexpensive** way to control mosquito populations in your yard without harmful pesticides. It's a bucket half-filled with water, some straw, grass or dead leaves, and a **Mosquito Dunk** (a Bti-containing tablet). Mosquitos lay their eggs in the bucket & the dunk kills the mosquito larvae so they can't become biting adults in your yard. **Here's how to create one in your yard:**

- Fill a bucket about halfway with water. Add some straw, hay, or dead leaves. Let it sit in a sunny spot for a few days (allows it to ferment & attract female mosquitoes).
- Once fermented, place a Mosquito Dunk (or other Bti-containing product) in the bucket. Let dissolve over time (dunks last 30 days).

DIY - SAFE - nearly FREE
MOSQUITO CONTROL



Bti dunk + bucket + water + grass + stick =
MOSQUITO BUCKET OF DOOM

That's it! Periodically check the bucket to ensure there's still enough water & add a new dunk when the old one is gone. Also eliminate any other sources of standing water in your yard (gutters, old tires, etc).



Mosquito Dunks are Bti, a **natural bacterium harmful to mosquito larvae but harmless to other insects, animals, plants, and even humans**. They have been used for decades in stock tanks, ponds, ditches, & rain barrels, & are sold at most hardware & garden stores.

Check out **Homegrown National Park's bucket challenge webpage** for more information:

<https://homegrownnationalpark.org/mosquito-bucket-challenge/>

By creating a "bucket of doom" & eliminating other breeding sites, you can effectively control mosquito populations in your yard **without using pesticides that kill pollinators**.

Other Ecological Gardening-Friendly Groups

Pollinator Pathway is one of many organizations supporting wildlife dependent on native plants & habitats. Check out these others:

Homegrown Parks



A grassroots movement encouraging individuals to restore biodiversity on their own properties. Their goal is similar to PP's - to create a network of interconnected habitats supplementing established national parks & wildland.

<https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>

Xerces Society



(for Invertebrate Conservation) is an international nonprofit that conducts research to conserve invertebrates – species without backbones such as insects and spiders -- and their habitats. Pollinator conservation is a key focus. <https://xerces.org/>

National Wildlife Federation



The largest private, nonprofit conservation education & advocacy organization in the US. They sell native plants, provide information on the best plants in our area, & you can certify your own garden or property with them as a wildlife habitat.

<https://www.nwf.org/>

Wild Ones



Nonprofit that provides resources for individuals and community groups to promote native landscapes. Provides garden designs & guides on how to get started with native plant gardening. <https://wildones.org/>