

# Bromeliads & Mosquitoes

## Preventing Mosquito Breeding in Your Bromeliads

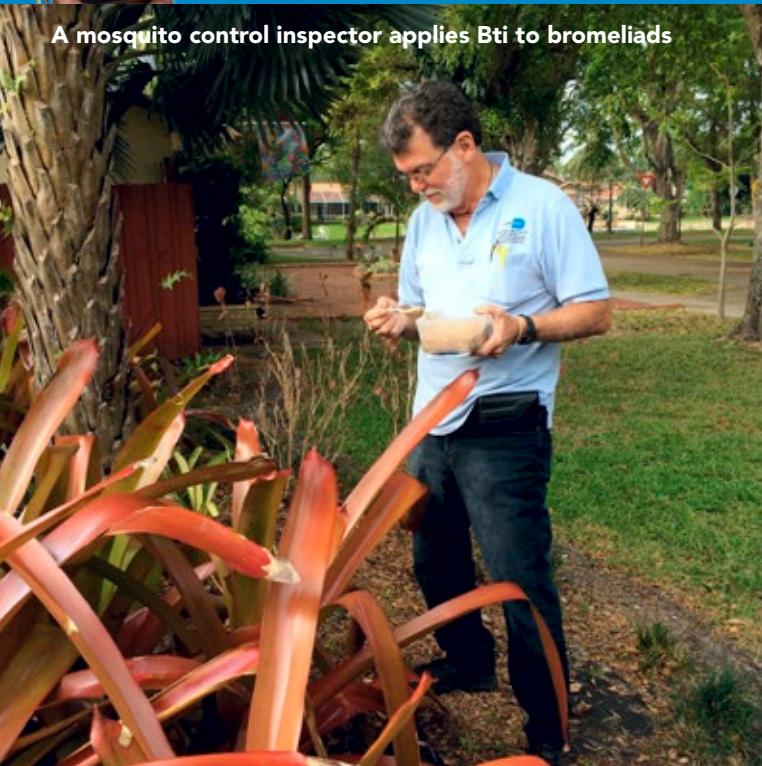
### More on Mosquitoes

Mosquitoes are not merely annoying, but they can spread life-threatening diseases.



To report a mosquito nuisance, or learn more about mosquito control, call the Miami-Dade Contact Center at 311, download the 311 Direct App or visit [www.miamidade.gov/mosquito](http://www.miamidade.gov/mosquito).

A mosquito control inspector applies Bti to bromeliads



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Solid Waste Management  
Mosquito Control Division

[www.miamidade.gov/mosquito](http://www.miamidade.gov/mosquito)



**Bromeliads.** They're a popular ornamental plant you'll find in many Miami-Dade County gardens. People love them because they're attractive and easy to maintain.

## Unfortunately, something else loves bromeliads: mosquitoes.

Some types of bromeliads, called tank bromeliads, can hold water between their leaves.

In Miami-Dade County, several species of mosquitoes lay their eggs in tank bromeliads, including the *Aedes aegypti*, or yellow fever mosquito. The eggs hatch when water is present and after a few days, become adult mosquitoes which can bite people and potentially spread diseases such as yellow fever, dengue fever, chikungunya and most recently, Zika.

The good news is you can prevent mosquitoes from breeding in your bromeliads with just a little effort.

# Preventing Mosquito Breeding in Your Bromeliads

The disease-spreading *Aedes aegypti* mosquito takes about seven days to go from egg to adult—sometimes less, if the weather is particularly warm. That's why it's important to maintain your bromeliads on a regular basis.

You can do so by treating the water in your bromeliads with a safe larvicide. *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*, or Bti, is a commercially available larvicide which is safe for use with plants, people and pets, when used as directed. You can find it in granule form at hardware stores, as well as online.

Bti granules should be applied every one to two weeks for maximum effectiveness.

