

FACT SHEET

Pest Control



The Shire of Wongan-Ballidu is committed to keeping pests to a minimum within our region, to protect our land and community. We can be contacted for advice on pest control and the safe use of pesticides, in particular in relation to rats, mice, flies and mosquitos.

Bees

To report a bee hive or swarm in a public area please contact the following:

- Shire of Wongan-Ballidu - 9671 2500
- Telstra Box – 13 22 03
- Western power Box – 13 13 51

Bee swarms are a relatively common occurrence in September, October and November in Western Australia but can be found at other times of the year too. Swarming is a response to lack of space in the hive and typically happens as spring nectar flows start and hive numbers need to expand. A decision is made by the hive to take the Queen and her workers to a new, spacious home where they can maximise the nectar on offer.

When bees swarm they are most unlikely to sting, so despite their appearance, people should not fear them, just treat them with respect. When a cluster of bees is seen hanging on a tree branch or similar, they are NOT thinking of setting up home there! They are in transition, clustered around their Queen and waiting for the scout bees to find new accommodation.

For further information regarding pest control and pesticides visit the Department of Health's website: www.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/U_Z/Using-pesticides-safely



Corella

There are three main species of white corella found in the central and northern Wheatbelt, these are the Western Corella, the Little Corella and the Long-Billed Corella. All three of these species are declared pests under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2019 (BAM Act 2019).

Why do they need management?

Environmental Impacts: Descending in large numbers, corellas will strip trees of their leaves. In the Wheatbelt, where mature native trees are scarce, this can have a devastating environmental impact. Corellas compete with endangered black cockatoo species and other native cockatoo species such as the Major Mitchell for nesting hollows. Corella's have been reported removing eggs and hatchlings of black cockatoos from the hollows so that they can take over the nest.

Social Impacts: When congregating in large numbers, corellas make a large amount of noise when attracted to feeding sits and congregating at roost sites disturbing the tranquillity within an area. The droppings can foul trees, washing on clothes lines, buildings and recreational areas.

Economic Impacts

Corellas have a varied diet and are naturally very curious, traits that often result in damage to public and private amenities. They chew through power lines, and damage vehicles, shops and housing with their powerful beaks. They can often be seen on sporting fields or large areas of grass where they will pull up and damage both synthetic and natural turf. They damage crops, grain storage facilities and foul water bodies. Corellas have even been cited as having a negative impact on local tourism.

Corella Management

West Australian Field & Game Association will be carrying out a corella cull for the management and control of corellas within our area. This management strategy is in place for pest control due to the damage and impact on social and environmental issues caused.

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Mosquito

There are approximately 100 species of mosquitoes in Western Australia (WA), a number of which are serious pests and/or disease vectors. Effective mosquito management can help to minimise the public health risk and impact on amenity associated with mosquitoes.

Mosquito management is only necessary if people and mosquitoes come into contact, either in residential or recreational areas that are within the dispersal range of mosquito breeding habitats. The overall aim of mosquito management is to reduce pest or vector mosquitoes to a level where the impact on the adjacent human population is kept to an acceptable level.

Effective mosquito management aims to:

- employ an integrated approach, combining various management strategies (chemical, physical, cultural and biological)
- minimise the interaction between mosquitoes and the public
- minimise the risk of mosquito-borne disease transmission
- remain environmentally and economically sustainable.

Natural habitats include:

- salt marsh
- lakes
- swamps
- ground pools
- irrigation ditches
- tree holes
- leaf axils (crevice formed between the stem of plant and leaf).

Urban habitats include:

- pot plant drip trays
- septic and water tanks
- roof gutters
- ponds
- disused containers
- poorly maintained swimming pools
- dog water bowls
- disused car tyres.



Mosquito Management Strategies

Key strategies include:

- physical (eg. source reduction by filling, draining or removing breeding sites)
- biological (eg. introduction of aquatic predators to reduce mosquito larvae)
- chemical (eg. application of insecticides, including adulticides or larvicides).
(www.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Chemical-control-of-mosquitoes)
- cultural (eg. land use planning considerations, promoting community awareness and encouraging the general public to adopt practices to avoid mosquito bites).

It is important to integrate a variety of management strategies into your program. Avoiding the reliance on a single strategy will help to prevent many of the problems inherent with long-term control, such as the development of chemical resistance.



Report Pests and Diseases

For more information on pests and diseases, and how to report them, visit the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's website.

**More
information on
Pests & diseases**



**Report Pests &
diseases online**

