

Prevention of mosquito breeding in disused land

Some pieces of land may be left unused for some reasons for a period of time. Grass overgrowth would soon cover the land especially during the rainy season. Refuse and junk may be left on the land unattended. Rainwater would be accumulated on the land, providing breeding places for mosquitoes. Mosquito breeding on the land will not only cause nuisance to the people living around the land, but also transmit diseases. A number of mosquitoes including *Culex tritaeniorhynchus*, a vector of Japanese encephalitis, can breed in waterlogged land overgrown with grass. Small containers left on the disused land also provide breeding places for *Aedes albopictus*, a vector of dengue fever and Chikungunya fever.

Advice to the owner/management of disused land

- 1 Trim the grass on the land regularly;
- 2 Avoid keeping disused articles that can hold water, and remove all the refuse left on the land;
- 3 Do not accumulate water containers or any article which may hold water on the land;
- 4 Drain off the water accumulated on the land regularly so that pools of water will not be formed on the land for more than one week;
- 5 Construct and maintain ditches on the land to prevent waterlogging; and
- 6 Release small mosquito fishes as a biological control agent if the water cannot be eliminated within one week.

Any person found accumulating water containing larvae or pupae of mosquitoes on his/her premises will be liable for prosecution with a maximum fine of \$25,000 plus a daily fine of \$450 if convicted.