

Victory at all costs

Perhaps the most annoying of all insects, mosquitoes seem to be everywhere during the summer. Fortunately, weapons and defenses against the little blighters are available in stores across the country

TRANSLATED FROM THE LIBERTY TIMES' WEEKENDER WITH ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY LIN KING

UNDERSTANDING THE ENEMY

Only female mosquitoes, which have a life span of six to 10 weeks, feed on human blood. They usually prefer a damp, dark and warm environment

FIGHTING MOSQUITOES EVERYWHERE



Outdoors

Take the fight outdoors as mosquitoes often lurk in vegetation, before they get the chance to venture indoors. Mosquito repellent incense made from pyrethrum, a chrysanthemum-derived insecticide, can be nauseating when inhaled for long periods of time, so it is better suited for outdoor usage. An effective alternative is photo-catalytic mosquito repellents, which use ultraviolet light and heat to produce carbon dioxide. The CO2 draws mosquitoes near the machine, which then uses its fan to suck them in.



Indoors

Liquid mosquito repellent and electronic repellents are similar in effectiveness. Both are mildly scented or odorless, but still shouldn't be inhaled over a long period of time. Neither requires a flame, which makes them safer for indoor use. Bug-catching lights and mosquito-zapping bats are also convenient to have in the house.



Portable

For protection on the go, there are portable mini-fans that release repellent and form an invisible protective shield around users. They are light and don't require a plug, but can irritate the eyes. Another option is repellent devices that produce a high-frequency sound resembling that of a male mosquito's. As pregnant females avoid males, they stay away from the wearer.



PHOTOS: TAIPEI TIMES

MOSQUITO MYTHS

Garlic

It may save you from vampires, but its smell is useless against a mosquito.



Vitamin B

When mosquitoes approach humans, their only concerns are carbon dioxide, heat and scent. As for the vitamins in the blood? Not so much.



Insect-repelling plants

Many plants are rumored to repel insects: evening primrose, lantanas, jasmine, rhododendron, roses, to name a few. Unfortunately, there are thousands of mosquito species, and many, rather than avoiding these plants, flock toward them.



Mosquito-repelling iPhone Apps

Available for download in the App Store, many programs also work based on the theory that pregnant female mosquitoes avoid male mosquitoes to provide protection for the user. But the shrill noise coming from your iPhone may repel humans as well as bugs.



HOW TO PREVENT ITCHING AND SWELLING

Mosquito saliva contains proteins that make it easier for the insect to extract blood. Some of these proteins cause allergic reactions in some people, hence the itching and swelling. The easiest and most natural way to subdue the swelling is through applying a cold compress and not scratching the bite. Another option is to apply anti-inflammatory cream.



ANTI-MOSQUITO PRODUCTS



◀ **Frog Mosquito Attractant** (日本綠蛙仔誘蟲器) (Hands Tailung, NT\$250)
This silent killer uses a fruity scent to lure mosquitoes into its trap



▲ **Floral Aromatic Repellent** (蚊不來避蚊芳香劑) (Hands Tailung, NT\$285)
With natural herbal oils, mosquitoes will stay away while the room is filled with its fragrant scent



▶ **Mosquito Electrocuting Fan Bat** (蚊風喪膽吸風式電蚊拍) (HOLA, NT\$599)
This portable fan sucks bloodsuckers to their doom

▼ **Mosquito-Capturing Vortex Fan** (柏森牌渦流吸入式環保捕蚊風扇) (B&Q, NT\$1,580)
With a filter and a bug-collecting box, this is an efficient mosquito killer that doubles as a regular fan

▶ **Mosquito Insect Repellent Lotion** (瑪斯琪托防蚊液) (Cosmed, NT\$199)
Contains citronella oil, a plant-based insect repellent, and does not contain alcohol. Safe for use on children and during pregnancy



◀ **Dr Mini Natural Mosquito Repellent Lotion** (小博士天然防蚊乳液) (available at major retailers, NT\$100)
Repels mosquitoes and protects against ultraviolet light. Safe for use on children



◀ **Hello Kitty Eucalyptus Bracelet** (Hello Kitty尤加利添加防蚊手環) (Hands Tailung, NT\$100)
Emits the scent of eucalyptus oil, a natural insecticide. Lasts for one month

