



White Flies

We monitor all of our lakes in IronOaks for water quality and pest control. In certain cases we stock fish to control algae and insects. For the past several months, white flies have invaded IronOaks. These pests are coming from vacant and active agricultural areas that surround our community.

This insect does not breed in the lakes, therefore the use of a fish to control breeding is not an option. The white fly population flourished due to our current weather conditions. We have experienced a very warm summer this year (as we know all too well) ...excessive heat without our typical monsoonal rains. It is the belief of the Maricopa Vector Control that the white fly population will begin to migrate back to the deserts surrounding IronOaks now that we have had moist conditions and more moderate temperatures.

Our first job is to insure we are not breeding insects in our lakes. We have achieved this. But with an airborne insect such as the white fly, which does not require our lakes to breed, makes it almost impossible to control. To make matters worse, Maricopa County will not fog for these insects because they do not pose a health hazard.

We contacted Arizona Game & Fish in our plight to rid IronOaks of these insects. They told us a bird called the Barn Swallow has migrated north to escape the heat. According to them this bird consumes more white flies than bats do. Unfortunately, in our case it headed north to escape the heat.

With the temperatures getting back to normal, these insects will dissipate. However they will never disappear. But we will keep up the fight.

Ron Kotnik
Facilities Director
IronOaks at Sun Lakes