



These eggs are then placed into cages that contain three females for every male. Each cage of 4,000 mosquitoes can produce between 150,000 and 200,000 eggs.

????????????3?1????????????4000????15??20????

Thirdly, the eggs are then hatched in special containers that can each hold up to 18,000 larvae each.

????????1.8????????

Fourthly, the smaller females are then separated from the larger males by filtering the insects through a glass sheet that only allows females to pass through.

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Any females remaining in the swarm of males are then spotted and removed using x-ray technology, leaving a batch of exclusively sterile male mosquitoes.

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Lastly, the male mosquitoes are released - about 1.5 million a month. These sterile males flood the area in which they are released, giving females in the area an 80 percent chance of breeding with a wolbachia-infected male.

????????150????????80%????

Since female mosquitoes only mate once in their lives, we want them to mate with our (wolbachia-carrying) males so the eggs they produce will not hatch, said Xi, who leads the lab's research on the Sterile Insect Technique project.

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Mosquitoes are behind the spread of many diseases. More than half a million people worldwide die from mosquito-borne diseases each year, the WHO has said, and as such research into reducing their numbers has been a key priority for many biotechnology firms.

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