

Pesticide Use

Consult a licensed pest control professional with experience in tick control to determine the right application and timing for your yard.

Permission must be granted by your local Conservation Commission prior to applying pesticides within 100 feet of a wetland, seasonal stream, pond or within 200 feet of a year-round flowing stream.



Perimeter sprays are an effective way to control the tick population. Applying an EPA approved pesticide along the perimeter of your yard, shady perennial beds, or along wooded trails where ticks live in mid-May and mid-June will kill larval and nymphal ticks, providing protection for the summer months. Spraying the lawn is unnecessary.

Tick Tubes may work to reduce the number of ticks in your yard by targeting their mouse hosts, but will not eliminate all ticks. *Tick Tubes* are biodegradable cardboard tubes filled with permethrin-soaked cotton. Placed around the yard (24 tubes per 1 acre; recommended application twice per year), the cotton provides a source of bedding for mouse nests that may reduce their infestation by ticks. The permethrin is EPA approved and safe for use in homes with small children. *For more information visit your local garden center or www.ticktubes.com*

The **Select TCS Tick Control System** may work to reduce the number of infested mice and chipmunks on your property. Each rodent that enters its baited boxes is lightly brushed with fipronil, the same insecticide found in veterinarian and EPA-approved flea and tick topical medications. *For more information and to find a certified installer in your area visit www.tickboxtcs.com*

Deer Detering Plants

Reducing the number of deer visiting your yard may also lower the number of ticks brought onto your property. Listed below are several deer-resistant plants. Consult your local nursery for advice on the right plants for your yard. To read more, visit: www.newenglandwild.org and plants.usda.gov

ANNUALS	PERENNIALS	SHRUBS & VINES
Alyssum	Beebalm	American Holly
Marigold	Bleeding Heart	Andromeda
Nasturtium	Columbine	Boxwood
Pansy	Daffodil	Butterfly Bush
Sage	Foxglove	Leucothoe
Spiderflower	Hyacinth	Spice Bush
Verbena	Iris	Sumac
	Mountain Mints	Weigela
	Poppy	
	Silvermound	
	Snowdrops	
	Yarrow	

For more information visit:

www.TickEncounter.org

www.CDC.gov/Lyme/Prev/



Created in collaboration with the following Middlesex Tick Taskforce member towns: Acton, Bedford, Concord, Carlisle, Lincoln, Wayland, Westford, Weston.

For more information on the MTTF or this brochure, contact the Board of Health or Department of Natural Resources in the collaborating towns.



LANDSCAPING A TICK SAFE ZONE

Middlesex Tick Taskforce

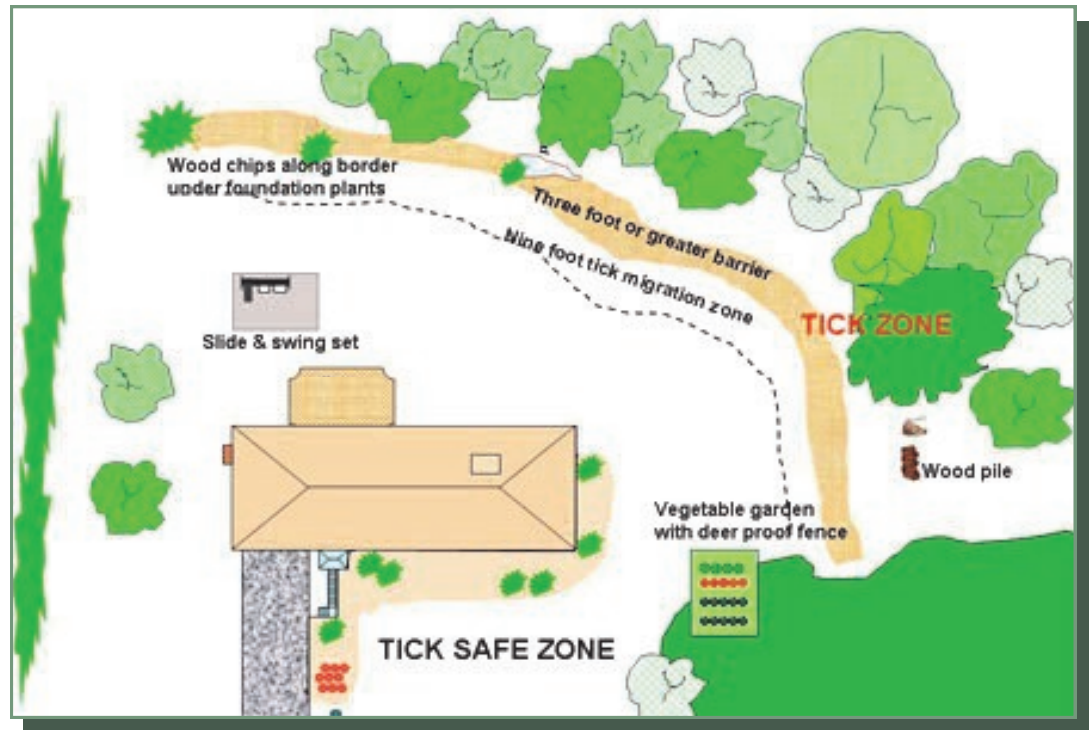
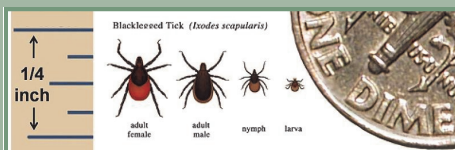
This project is funded through the Northwest Suburban Health Alliance/ CHNA 15 DoN funds from Lahey Clinic, Winchester Hospital and Mount Auburn Hospital.

Tick-borne Diseases

Deer ticks are found throughout the Northeast and can transmit disease causing bacteria resulting in Lyme disease, babesiosis, or anaplasmosis. It takes more than 24 hours for a tick to transmit bacteria to its host while it is feeding. Preventing tick bites is the best way to avoid infection.

You can reduce your risk of infection, by creating a tick safe zone at your home. Deer ticks prefer shady, moist climates, like that found in underbrush, leaf litter, woods, and tall grass. They require multiple hosts (especially mice and deer) to complete their two year life cycle. Nymphal ticks are the size of poppy seeds, but are capable of transmitting disease causing bacteria to humans from late May through September. Adult ticks are active during the fall, winter, and spring, whenever the ground is not frozen.

Always check yourself for ticks and remove them promptly with tweezers, after spending time in a tick zone.



Creating a Tick Safe Zone

- Create a 3 foot wide perimeter between your yard and the woods using mulch, woodchips, gravel, etc.
- Prune plants, shrubs, and bushes to let in more sunlight, making it less attractive to ticks.
- Keep grass cut short to 2"
- Remove leaf litter and underbrush from transition areas, stone walls, and woodpiles.
- Place swing sets, picnic tables, and hammocks away from the woods where ticks may lurk.
- Minimize mice on your property:
 - Store woodpiles off the ground and away from your house and clear of leaf litter.
 - Install bird feeders away from your house and only provide seed from December to April.
- Deter deer by planting poor tasting plants.

Health officials believe that over 75% of reported cases of Lyme Disease originated from a tick found on the person's property.

(Source: CT Dept. of Agriculture)

Prior to conducting any work in your yard, please consult your local Conservation Commission if you intend to alter land within 100 feet of a wetland, seasonal stream, pond or within 200 feet of a year-round flowing stream. A permit may be required pursuant to your local Wetlands Bylaw and/or the MA Wetlands Protection Act.