

Landscaping Tips

Deer ticks are most commonly found in wooded areas where there are deer, mice and other animals to feed on. They can also be found in grassy areas near woods, such as residential lawns and parks. What this means is that you don't have to be walking in the woods to be bitten by a tick. Ticks can bite you right in your own backyard!

Suggestions for landscaping measures which can help reduce the number of ticks around your home are:

- ➔ **Keep grass cut short.** Ticks are susceptible to dehydration. A well-mowed lawn will dry out more quickly.
- ➔ **Remove leaf litter and brush from around your home** that can act as a moist environment in which ticks can thrive.
- ➔ **Keep woodpiles in a dry, sunny area** and preferably off the ground.
- ➔ **Keep the ground under bird feeders clean** so as not to attract small animals, which may carry ticks.
- ➔ **Create a three-foot barrier of wood chips** between your lawn and bushy vegetation or surrounding wooded areas. This barrier can help prevent ticks from entering your lawn. It can also be a physical reminder that you're entering an area that may have many ticks.
- ➔ **Place patio furniture, swing sets and other outdoor items** away from the wooded sections of your property.



- ➔ **Choose plantings for your yard that do not attract deer.** If deer have a choice, they prefer some plants to others. But before starving, deer will eat almost any plant.

Plants that deer favor include arborvitae, euonymus, mulberry, rhododendron, rose and yew.

Second choices are flowering fruit trees, fir, pine, dogwood, some junipers, Russian olive, autumn olive, serviceberry and most hollies.

Third choices include bedding plants of bleeding heart, California poppy, columbine, cornflower, forget-me-not, hollyhock, iris, lily-of-the-valley, lobelia, narcissus, periwinkle, spiderwort and sunflower.

Distasteful ornamental plants are barberry, bayberry, boxwood, coralberry, cotoneaster, forsythia, grape holly, hydrangea, most junipers, kerria, mockorange, potentilla, privet, pyracantha, quince, smoketree, spice bush, spirea, viburnum, weigela and witch hazel.

Pesticide Use

People often ask which pesticides can be used to kill deer ticks. There are several chemicals recommended for this purpose but in most cases, they have little, if any, impact on the tick population. Deer ticks are amazingly resistant to pesticide use.

Lawn chemicals and pesticides applied by some people to their residential lawns and gardens can ultimately find their way into our bodies. Residents in areas that use well water are particularly vulnerable to such chemicals.

