

### Tips for lowering risk of tick infestation.

- Keep grass mowed.
- Remove leaf litter, brush and weeds at the edge of the lawn.
- Restrict the use of ground cover, such as pachysandra in areas frequented by family and roaming pets.
- Remove brush and leaves around stonewalls and wood piles.
- Discourage rodent activity. Cleanup and seal stonewalls and small openings around the home.
- Move firewood piles and bird feeders away from the house.
- Manage pet activity, keep dogs and cats out of the woods to reduce ticks brought back into the home.
- Use plants that do not attract deer or exclude deer through various types of fencing.
- Move children's swing sets and sand boxes away from the woodland edge and place them on wood chips or mulch type foundation.
- Trim tree branches and shrubs around the lawn edge to let in more sunlight.
- Adopt hardscape and xeriscape (drier or less water demanding) landscaping techniques with gravel pathways and mulches. Create a 3-foot or wider wood chip mulch, or gravel border between lawn and woods or stonewalls.
- Consider areas with decking, tile gravel and border or container plants in areas by the house or frequently traveled.
- Widen woodland trails.
- Consider a pesticide application as a targeted barrier treatment.

For more information call . . .

## Moerman Pest Control

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## Nuisance News!™

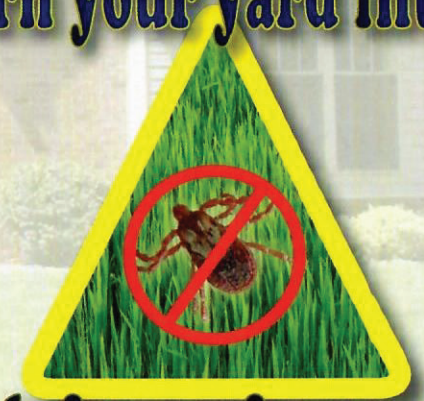


Fact Sheet

### Ticks



Turn your yard into a



Tick free safety zone!

With over 850 tick species, ticks have become a health risk to millions of Americans. Roughly 100 of which are capable of transmitting diseases. Lone Star Tick (*Amblyomma*), American Dog, Rocky Mountain Wood, Pacific Coast Ticks (*Dermacentor*), Brown Dog Ticks (*Rhipicephalus* and *Ornithodoros*) transmit to humans



the vast majority of diseases caused by bacteria, viruses, protozoa and toxins. Multiple diseases can be contracted from a single tick bite.

#### Target ticks where they live.

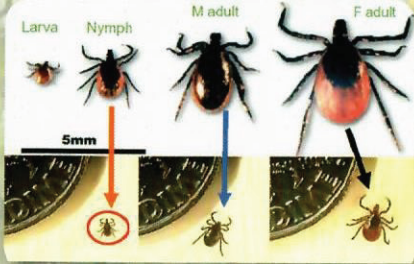
Deer ticks live in the woods and are sustained by its higher humidity levels. They do not fly, jump or drop from above. Most Lyme cases are caused by the tiny nymphal deer tick which makes its home in leaf litter that accumulates around stone walls and under ground covers.

- Is your home surrounded by woods?

- Is your yard more woods than lawn?

- Does the tree canopy from the woods extend over your yard?

- Does your family use areas that are next to the woods?



- Do you have ground covers near your home?
- Are bird feeders located close to your home or play areas?
- Do you have an unkempt stone wall?

- Is your fire wood pile located next to your home?
- Are deer and other wildlife eating your flowers, trees or shrubs?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you can and should make changes to your landscaped areas and have your yard treated by a professional.

#### Reducing Tick Habitat- Altering the landscape to increase



sunlight and lower humidity may render an area less hospitable to ticks. Management of the habitat should focus on the areas frequently used by the family, not necessarily the entire property. To reduce ticks adjacent to homes, prune trees, mow the lawn, remove leaf litter accumulations around the house and lawn perimeter. Cut weeds and brush along edges of the lawn, stonewalls and driveways. Plants can be pruned to provide open space between the ground and base of the plant.

#### Lyme Disease in Domestic and Companion Animals -

Domestic animals (dogs, cats, horses, cows, and goats) can become infected with Lyme disease bacteria and develop clinical disease. Lameness and swollen joints, fever, lymph node enlargement, reduced appetite, and a reluctance to move are the usual symptoms in these animals. Disease is more common in dogs and relatively less frequent in cats. Most dogs in a Lyme disease endemic area will eventually become infected (based on positive serology) due to their high exposure to ticks and some will develop disease each year. Limb and joint arthritis is the most frequent symptom in canine Lyme disease; cardiac, neurological, ophthalmic, and a unique renal involvement is less common. Lyme nephritis in dogs often results in the death of the animal, even with aggressive treatment. Animals are treated with antibiotics (tetracycline or penicillin-group) and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs for symptomatic relief. Most dogs respond dramatically to antibiotic treatment within days and will make a complete recovery. Chronic disease appears rare and a lack of response to therapy may suggest another diagnosis. Other disease processes, which should be ruled out, include rheumatoid arthritis, infectious arthritides, and other tick-borne diseases such as Rocky Mountain spotted fever and ehrlichiosis. However, studies have shown infection and antibody titers may persist in dogs after efficacious treatment. It is not clear if a reoccurrence of disease is due to another tick exposure or from the initial infection. Some data suggest that treatment in the absence of clinical disease for seropositive dogs or those with a history of tick bite may be indicated.



#### Area-Wide Control of Ticks

Insecticides, or as termed for ticks, acaricides, are the most effective way to reduce ticks, particularly when combined with the landscaping changes to decrease tick habitat. This will provide consistent control. Small amounts of an acaricide applied at the right time of year are necessary. Chemical intervention should focus on early control of nymphal *I. scapularis* ticks, the stage most likely to transmit Lyme disease, by spraying once in May or early June. A fall application in October may be used to control adult Blacklegged Ticks (or in the spring if no fall application was made). Targeting lawn and woodland edges and perimeter areas near tick "hot-spots" or along the "tick zone" can minimize exposure.



- We will spray once in the late spring or early summer for control of *I. scapularis* nymphs. For American dog ticks, an application can be made anytime after the adults emerge in the spring.

- A Single application of most ornamental-turf insecticides will provide 85-90% or better control with some residual activity so multiple applications are rarely necessary. Some organic pesticide products are less effective, breakdown rapidly, and multiple applications may be required.

- Ticks can be found year-round in most areas, but are most prevalent in the warm summer months. They are parasites, and as a result, are on a continual quest for a host. If a host is not available, a tick can survive up to a year without feeding.

- A female tick must have a blood meal before she can lay eggs. After feeding, she drops off her host and lays thousands of eggs. A female tick lays one batch of eggs, after which she dies. A male tick also dies after reproducing.

- Ticks often prefer certain hosts over others, resulting in names as Deer Tick, Cat Tick, American Dog Tick, Bird Tick etc. The family pet is a popular carrier of ticks, which unfortunately results in a tick entering a home. After feeding for a few days, a female tick will drop off of her host to lay eggs. Ticks seek out tiny crevices in which to store their eggs, which can result in a full-blown infestation of your home. Attempting to rid your home of the tick infestation can be difficult and frustrating, as eggs can hatch months later, long after you think you have the situation under control. For the best results in combating a tick infestation, contact a professional pest control company.