

Tips on deterring ticks

There are also many ways to remove tick habitats around your property but the key is to remember that ticks thrive in humid, dark places. Ticks typically aren't in the lawn after the early spring if it is maintained and not overly tall.

Be aware of these typical tick habitats:

- Brush piles, leaf litter (leaves that accumulate along the edge of your property) and compost piles
- Overgrown/ brushy places on your property
- Woodlands and tall grass
- Dark and moist areas such as under decks and stone walls

Maintaining the perimeter of your property to remove leaf litter, brush or grassy weeds will improve your tick perimeter. Installing crushed stone along the property edge is another good option to create a warm dry barrier to keep them out.

Other animals such as mice, skunks, deer, birds, squirrels, deer and even your beloved pets have the potential to be a carrier for ticks. A not so fun fact is that our local White Footed Mouse is the primary host to the nymph ticks. This stage of the tick life cycle is when they are most likely to pass diseases along to their host. An effective way to treat the mouse nest is through the use of [Tick Tubes](#). These tubes are full of cotton soaked in permethrin. Simply stick the tubs in stone walls, wood piles and under decks and the mice will find them and take the cotton back to the nest to use bedding and treat the nest. Note that permethrin is a pesticide so if you are looking for a 100% organic program, this won't fit the bill.

Tick checks!

Lastly, make sure you do a thorough tick check on yourself, kids and pets after you're done playing or relaxing outside. This means head to toe, behind the ears, in the hair, groin and armpits. Always use bug spray to complete your multi prong approach to keeping your family safe from ticks and mosquitoes and wear light colored clothing to help make the ticks easier to spot.

One last landscaper's tip: Don't spray yourself with bug spray while standing on your prized lawn. Depending on the product, it can cause burns on the lawn and lawn repair is a subject for another blog entirely!

(Article courtesy greenspherelawn.com)