

Landscape Tips to Reduce Ticks



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Landscape Management

Simple landscape changes can make your yard less welcoming to ticks and their hosts (ex: mice and deer).

1. Wood-chips, mulch, or gravel borders at least one metre wide between lawn and woods reduces ticks on the lawn. Seal holes in stone walls which can harbor mice, common tick hosts.
2. Keep trees pruned, lawn mowed and yard brush-free.
3. Place swing sets and activity areas away from the woods and bushes.
4. Keep wood piles away from house and brush-free.
5. Regularly check pets after they have been outside. Pets can carry ticks into homes and yards.
6. Restrict the use of groundcover plants such as ferns and junipers (both low growing and spreading plants) in areas used most often. Plants can be pruned to provide open space between the ground and base of the plant. Minimizing shade cover creates less suitable habitat for ticks.

FRONT – Landscape diagram based on diagram by K. Stafford, Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station (adapted with permission);
BACK – Adult blacklegged (female) tick image reproduced with the permission of James Gathany, US CDC

Tick Prevention

Landscape changes alone may not fully reduce your chances of encountering ticks.

When in areas that have ticks:

- use trails, whenever possible, and stay to the centre of hiking trails or paths
- wear closed-toe shoes, long-sleeved shirts and pants
- tuck your pants into your socks
- wear light-coloured clothing
- use an appropriate tick repellent (containing DEET or Icaridin) on clothing and exposed skin according to label directions

After spending time outdoors, inspect yourself, your children and your pets for ticks and remove any ticks found as soon as possible. Showering or bathing soon after coming indoors is a good way to find ticks.

Additional Information

For more information, visit manitoba.ca/health/lyme

