

## How can I reduce the number of ticks around my home?

You don't have to be walking in the woods to be bitten by a tick. You can be in your own backyard! You can reduce the number of ticks around your home by following these tips:

- Keep grass cut short.
- Remove leaves and brush from around your home.
- Prune low-lying bushes to let in more sunlight and reduce moisture. Ticks need moisture to survive.
- Keep woodpiles and birdfeeders off the ground and away from your home to discourage mice and other rodents, which can carry ticks.
- Keep the plants around stone walls cut short.
- Use a three-foot wide woodchip, mulch or gravel barrier where your lawn meets the woods. Ticks are less likely to cross a barrier onto your lawn. It can also serve as a reminder to people who cross the barrier that they are going into an area that may have ticks.
- Ask your local nursery about plants to use in your yard that do not attract deer. That's because deer carry ticks and spread them from place to place.
- Use deer fencing (for yards 15 acres or more).
- An application of an acaracide (tick pesticide) may reduce the number of ticks in your yard. Products are available in stores, or you can consider using a professional pesticide company.