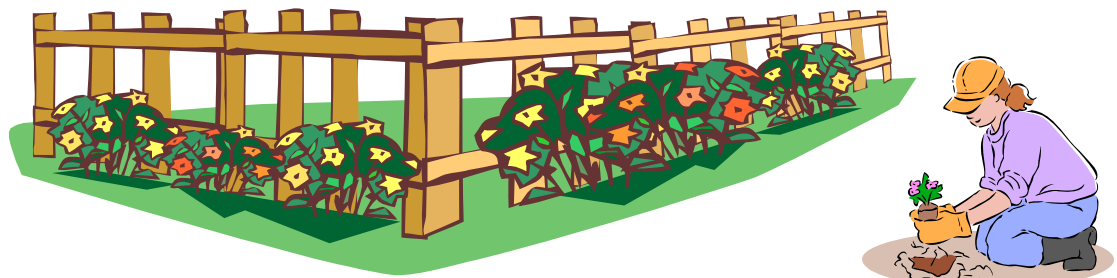


Gardening Tips — Don't let the bugs bite!



Gardening is an enjoyable outdoor activity and there are many benefits. But, both ticks and mosquitoes are often found around vegetation and both may spread disease if they bite you.

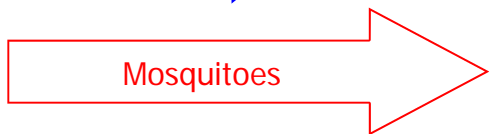
In Massachusetts, the diseases most commonly spread by insects are:



- * Lyme disease
- * Anaplasmosis

- * Babesiosis
- * Tularemia

- * Rocky Mountain spotted fever



- * West Nile virus (WNV)
- * Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE)

How to Avoid Bites

Be Aware of Peak Activity Times.



The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Gardening during the middle of the day may decrease your chance of getting bitten.



Ticks seeking a host to feed on are most active April through October.

Clothing Can Help Reduce Bites.



Wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes and ticks away from your skin. Making the long-sleeves, pants and socks light-colored will help you spot a tick crawling on them more easily.

Use Insect Repellent.



Use a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), or permethrin, according to the instructions on the product label. DEET is designed to be applied directly to your skin while permethrin is applied to your clothing. Products containing other active ingredients such as oil of lemon eucalyptus, picaradin or IR 3535 are only effective against mosquitoes and will not repel ticks.

Do a Tick Check Daily.



Finding and removing ticks promptly will help prevent them from spreading disease to you. Check yourself all over for ticks in a well-lit room. They like to hide in warm, dark areas like between the toes, in back of the knees, groin, armpits, and neck, along the hairline, and behind the ears. Some of them are as small as poppy seeds, so use a magnifying glass if you have to. Remove any attached ticks using a pair of fine-tipped tweezers. Grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible and pull gently but firmly, straight outwards.

Additional Resources

More detailed information is available through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at (617) 983-6800, your local Board of Health, or online at www.mass.gov/dph/epi.

Public Health Factsheets



Lyme disease
Anaplasmosis
Babesiosis
Tularemia
Rocky Mountain spotted fever
Tick repellents

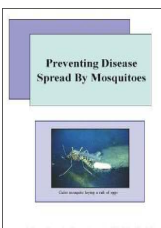
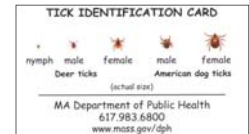


Eastern equine encephalitis
West Nile virus
Mosquito repellents
Mosquitoes in Massachusetts



Preventing Diseases Spread by Ticks—an eight-page, color brochure that provides information on ticks, diseases transmitted by ticks, how to protect yourself from tick bites, how to reduce tick populations around a home, how to remove an attached tick and information on repellents.

Tick Identification Card—A wallet-sized card sized reference to help people distinguish between deer ticks and dog ticks and their life stages. Handy tick tips can be found on the back.



Preventing Diseases Spread by Mosquitoes—an eight-page, color brochure that provides information on diseases transmitted by ticks, how to protect yourself from mosquito bites, how to reduce mosquito populations around a home, and information on repellents.

To request copies of materials other than factsheets, please call the Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at (617) 983-6800.

Other Agency Resources

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental Health
617-624-5757
Information on pesticides and repellents

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources,
State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board, (617)626-1777 or online at
www.mass.gov/agr/mosquito/index.htm
Information on mosquito control activities in Massachusetts

