

## **Integrated Pest Management practices to prevent ticks in a backyard**

There are a number of ways to make your backyard less suitable for tick survival. These simple landscaping practices should form part of an integrated pest management approach to managing ticks:

- Mow your lawns frequently and keep leaves raked.
- Remove leaf litter, tall grasses, and brush from around homes, stonewalls, wood piles, and along the edge of lawns.
- Consider trimming, pruning trees around lawns to let in more sunlight.
- Plant deer resistant plant varieties or install fencing to exclude deer.
- Discourage rodent activity by removing woodpiles or stacking wood neatly in dry areas away from the home.
- Place bird feeders in open areas away from the home and consider feeding birds only during winter months when ticks are less active. In addition to birds, feeders can attract other tick hosts including mice and other rodents.
- Position playground equipment, decks, and patios in sunny locations away from yard edges, if possible.
- Install a 3-ft wide barrier of wood chips, mulch, or gravel between lawns and wooded areas and around swing sets and other recreational areas to minimize tick migration.
- Remove trash, brush piles, old furniture and other debris that offer places for tick hosts to hide.

This list of recommendations is put out by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), The Tick Handbook and the UMaine Cooperative Extension. Similar recommendations will be adapted in a factsheet aimed at homeowners.