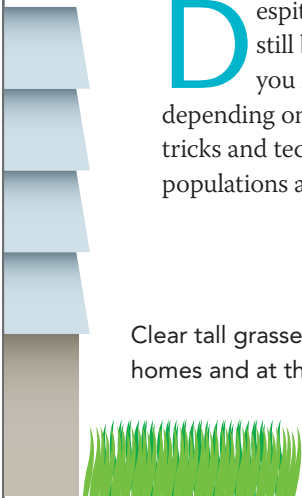


CREATE A **TICK-FREE ZONE** IN YOUR BACKYARD

Keep your pet safe using these practical landscaping tips.

Despite regular, year-round use of preventives, your pet can still be exposed to ticks—even in your backyard. But did you know you can make your yard less attractive to ticks depending on how you landscape? It's true! Here are some simple tricks and techniques you can employ this year to help reduce tick populations around your home.

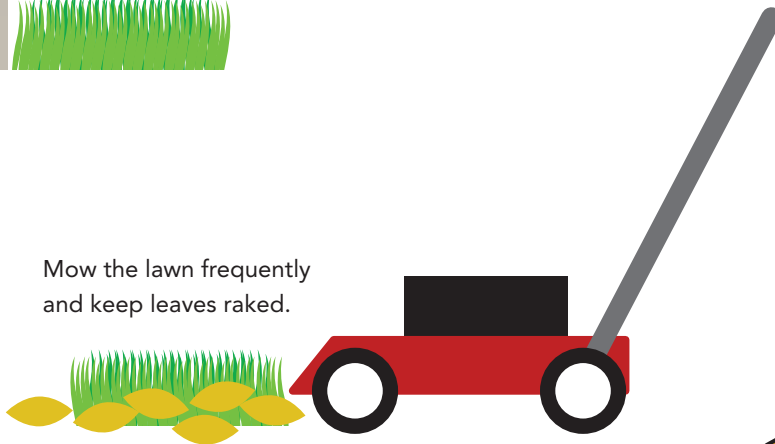
Clear tall grasses and brush around homes and at the edge of lawns.



Place a 3-ft wide barrier of wood chips or gravel between lawns and wooded areas and around patios and play equipment. This will restrict tick migration into recreational areas.



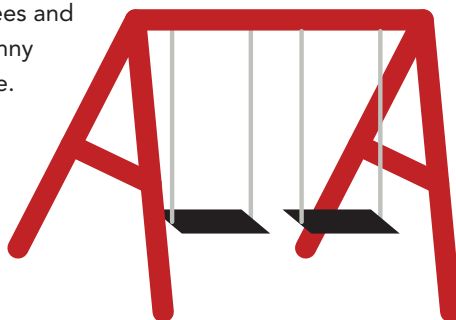
Mow the lawn frequently and keep leaves raked.



Stack wood neatly and in a dry area (discourages rodents that ticks feed on).



Keep playground equipment, decks, and patios away from yard edges and trees and place them in a sunny location, if possible.



Remove any old furniture, mattresses, or trash from the yard that may give ticks a place to hide.





TWO DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES ON CREATING TICK SAFE ZONES



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|----------|----------------------------|---|
| 1 | Tick zone | Avoid areas with forest and brush where deer, rodents, and ticks are common. |
| 2 | Wood chip barrier | Use a 3 ft. barrier of wood chips or rock to separate the "tick zone" and rock walls from the lawn. |
| 3 | Wood pile | Keep wood piles on the wood chip barrier, away from the home. |
| 4 | Tick migration zone | Maintain a 9 ft. barrier of lawn between the wood chips and areas such as patios, gardens, and play sets. |
| 5 | Tick safe zone | Enjoy daily living activities such as gardening and outdoor play inside this perimeter. |
| 6 | Gardens | Plant deer resistant crops. If desired, an 8-ft. fence can keep deer out of the yard. |
| 7 | Play sets | Keep play sets in the "tick safe zone" in sunny areas where ticks have difficulty surviving. |

Based on a diagram by K. Stafford, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station