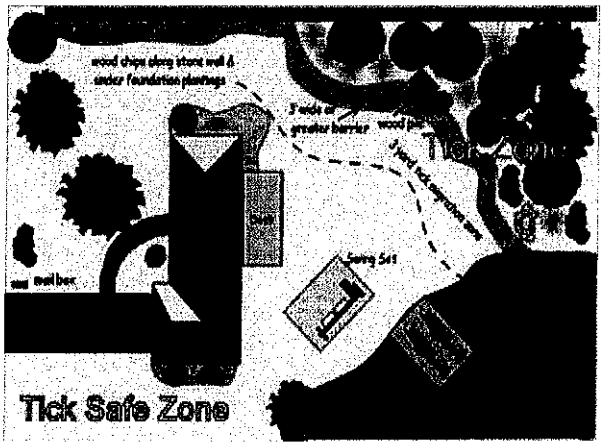
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving lives, protecting people, reducing health costs

Preventing Ticks in the Yard

Create a Tick-Safe Zone Through Landscaping

You can make your yard less attractive to ticks depending on how you landscape. Here are some simple landscaping techniques that can help reduce tick populations:



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.

Refer to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station's Tick Management Handbook [PDF - 8.53 MB] (http://www.ct.gov/caes/lib/caes/documents/special_features/tickhandbook.pdf) for a comprehensive guide to preventing ticks and their bites through landscaping.

Apply Pesticides Outdoors to Control Ticks

A single springtime application of an acaracide (tick pesticide), such as bifenthin, can greatly reduce the number of ticks in your yard.

If you have concerns about applying acaricides:

Check with local health officials about the best time to apply acaricide in your area.