# Tree Specialists, Inc.

Conservation | Preservation | Restoration

## Tick Management

It's not just media hype — the prevalence of ticks and their associated diseases is rising.

- In 2013, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revised their estimate of annual Lyme cases in the US from about 30,000 to 300,000, with the greatest concentration of cases being reported in the Northeast.
- These numbers suggest that there may be upwards of **30,000 new cases of Lyme disease in Massachusetts alone per year.** Contrast that with 33 reported cases of West Nile virus last year, and only 7 cases of Eastern equine encephalitis.
- While Massachusetts spends $10 million per year on mosquito monitoring and control, the budget for ticks is just $60,000.

**What do the experts suggest? Reducing the likelihood of disease is actually fairly simple.**

*Protect yourself and your family!*

- Apply tick repellant (permethrin) to clothing before going out.
- After spending time outside in wooded settings, check yourself and your family for ticks. You must be thorough, as the ticks responsible for most of the reported cases are at the nymph stage, and are very small — not much bigger than the period at the end of this sentence.
- Protect your pets — they can bring ticks into your home and on to you or your family.

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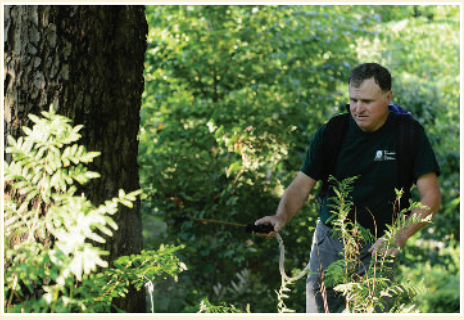
### Protect your yard!

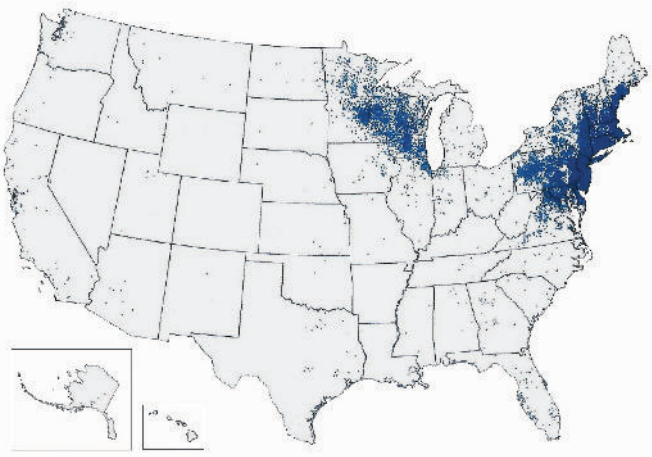
- Research indicates that **perimeter** sprays are highly effective at reducing tick populations. It is not necessary to spray your whole yard, as ticks are generally not found in open turf areas, or in mulch beds. While botanical extracts may provide some measure of control, current research indicates that permethrin provides the best all around control.
- Place "Tick Tubes" in stone walls, woodpiles and under garden sheds or other structures. These simple devices are filled with bedding material, pre-treated with insecticide, that mice use in their nests. This kills a great number of ticks that rely on rodents as a food source during their larval stage.



- Reduce tick habitat by pruning low limbs on trees and shrubs around wooded perimeters, and reducing brush and leaf litter.
- Avoid attracting wildlife, especially deer, into your yard. Consider planting deer-resistant varieties, using fencing, or applying deer repellant.

### Reported Cases of Lyme Disease – United States, 2011

One dot is placed randomly within the county of residence for each confirmed case. Though Lyme disease cases have been reported in nearly every state, cases are reported based on the county of residence, not necessarily the county of infection.



National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Division of Vector Borne Diseases | Bacterial Diseases Branch

CDC