

2026 Masons Island Fire District (MIFD) Tick Control Program

Tick selection forms are due from residents by April 30, 2026

MIFD Tick Control Program General Information

The goal of the MIFD Tick Control Committee is to encourage effective tick control within the MIFD by providing a program that is effective, affordably priced and ecologically responsible. The MIFD Tick Control Committee operates under the supervision and control of the MIFD Board of Directors.

The MIFD Tick Control program was started several years ago to reduce the number of tick-borne related illnesses that residents and/or their pets were experiencing and by all account, the program has been very successful. It is very important that we continue this successful program to limit tick-related illnesses for residents and their pets on Mason's Island.

The overall tick program includes three active elements: treating residential property perimeters, treating several common or other designated areas; and positioning several "4-Poster Tick Control Deer Feeder stations" in common areas (4 roller-postered corn feeding stations that are impregnated with insecticide to remove ticks from the necks of deer. (See page 56 & 57 of the CT Agricultural Station's **Tick Management Handbook** listed below in the reference section).

The 4th part of the Tick Control Program consists of resident actions that can help reduce tick populations on their property. Property Owners are encouraged to see the landscape management tick control tips contained in the CT Tick Management Handbook.

In keeping with the tick program's goal, residents at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Mason's Island Fire District approved a mil rate that included tick control treatment for single-family residence properties. This program will continue for 2026 and all MIFD homeowners are eligible for one of three tick control options described below. Like previous years, residents no longer have to remember to pay separately because program costs are included in everyone's MIFD taxes.

MIFD Resident Property Treatment Choices

Based on the overall good results from our Resident Tick Survey(s) and after considering the tick control research done by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) staff as well as discussions with CAES personnel, we have decided to stick with the same tick control application schedule for residential lot perimeters that we used in 2025, i.e. either three applications of a natural cedar oil-based product (Tick Kilz) on the lot perimeter in the Spring, or two applications of a bifenthrin-based product (synthetic pesticide) on the lot perimeter, one application in the Spring and one in the Fall.

One change for 2026, after considering CAES research and our discussions with them, Sea Scape will apply the normal granular Talstar product in the Spring like they always have using lawn spreaders **but would apply a liquid spray version of bifenthrin insecticide (Bifen IT) in the Fall with backpack sprayers** (just like they apply the cedar oil product with backpack sprayers in the Spring). The labels for all these products are available on the web site (<https://mifd.info/tick>). Please note that Bifen IT spray product is available for purchase on Amazon but CT DEEP recommends that it should only be applied in CT by trained, commercial personnel. Information on Bifen IT is also available at:

[https://s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/agrian-cg-fs1-production/pdfs/Bifen IT Label1rt.pdf](https://s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/agrian-cg-fs1-production/pdfs/Bifen_IT_Label1rt.pdf)

Please let the Board and the Tick Committee members know if you have any comments or questions about the program in general and/or the new spray product being proposed for the Fall 2026 bifenthrin application. The MIFD Board will consider resident input before finalizing the decision to switch to a spray in the fall. The cost of the spray or granular bifenthrin applications is the same.

Both the natural-based cedar oil product and the synthetic pesticide product will be applied by our long-term provider Sea Scape Inc. from Coventry RI. You can visit their web site at: <https://seascapeinc.com>

No action is needed by residents that wish to leave their 2025 property treatment option in place.

Please note that all property owners are charged for tick control property treatment in their MIFD taxes regardless of which option they choose below. There are no substitutions.

Like last year, the 2026 MIFD Tick Control Program gives property owners 3 choices.

- Option 1 - Natural-based cedar oil tick control product

Sea Scape is a licensed company and will treat residential lots 3 times per year (Spring/Summer/Fall) with a natural-based, cedar oil tick control product called *Tick Killz* that is applied with a sprayer to the perimeter of the property. Tick Killz info can be found on their website at: <https://tickkillz.com>

- Option 2- Synthetic-based tick control pesticide product

Sea Scape is a licensed company that will treat residential lots 3 times per year (Spring/Summer/Fall) with an US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) approved, widely used, broad spectrum pesticide product called Talstar. (Label on MIFD web site.)

A granular-type pesticide that contains bifenthrin along with fertilizer and is applied with a spreader to the perimeter of each property. Or a liquid spray applied with a sprayer. The product is not applied within 50 feet of any waterway nor is the spray product applied in windy conditions.

- Option 3 – No Treatment

Property Owners are free to use other state-approved tick treatment programs on their properties at their own expense instead of the MIFD Tick Prevention program. e.g. Tick Boxes, (Boxes that treat small rodents like mice) (e.g. Tick Control System), or may choose to forego any treatment of their property.

New property owners or those property owners wishing to change their previous treatment option, **please download, complete and return the form available on the MIFD website at www.mifd.info to make your selection for 2026.** If no option choice is received from a new property owner, their lot will not be treated.

Like last year, there will be an email survey to gather data from MIFD residents about tick activity that residents observed after the tick application program has been completed.

General Tick Control References:

Property owners are encouraged to review the tick control information accessible through the website links provided below.

These web site links contain a sampling of common information that can be found on the internet regarding tick control. These references are not all inclusive; are provided for general information purposes only; and are not endorsed in any way by the Masons Island Fire District.

- "**Tick Management Handbook**" published by the **CT Agricultural Experiment Station:**

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/CAES/DOCUMENTS/Publications/Bulletins/b1010pdf.pdf?la=en>

- US Dept of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service: (Cedar Oil info)

<https://www.ars.usda.gov/news-events/news/research-news/2022/pleasant-smelling-wood-oil-not-so-pleasant-for-biting-ticks-other-pests/>

- General bifenthrin information from the National Pesticide Information Center:

<https://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/bifgen.html>

- "Tick Encounter" information from the University of Rhode Island:

<https://web.uri.edu/tickencounter/prevention/protect-your-yard/>

- "Preventing Tick Bites" from the US Center for Disease

Control: https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/prevention/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/a-void/index.html