

Mason's Island Fire District

2025 Tick Control Survey Summary

The 2025 MIFD survey was sent twice to increase the number of respondents. In total 81 or ~40% of households responded to the 4 questions. Consequently, with a limited number of respondents, the survey provides a snapshot of residents' experiences during that year.

The 2026 tick survey has been revised and will include 11 questions. The survey will be sent to households at the end of the active season in late fall. Please note your tick experience for each household by month in preparation for the survey. The 2026 survey and a diary to document tick experience for the survey is posted to the MIFD Tick Committee website (<https://mifd.info/tick>).

Survey Summary:

- Most households selected Tick Killz - Cedarwood Oil (58%) treatment over Talstar - Bifenthrin (28%) for the MIFD treatment.
- Some supplemented MIFD treatment with tick boxes (6%) or cedarwood oil/Talstar treatments (9%).
- Tick-borne infections were reported by 2 residents (2.4%) and identified in 1 dog (1.2%).
- Most respondents (83%) did not notice a change in tick activity from previous years.
- Many reports of ticks found on dogs.

Results:

Question 1: Which MIFD Tick Control Program did you chose for your property in 2025?		
Choices	Response	%
None	5	6%
Other (4 tick boxes, 2 unclear)	6	7%
Talstar - Bifenthrin	23	28%
Tick Killz - Cedarwood Oil	47	58%

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Question 2:

Did you use any independent method of tick control in addition to, or instead of the MIFD Program? (eg, Max Force Tick Boxes, etc.)

Choices	Response	%	Comment Summary
No	69	85%	
Tick Boxes	5	6%	
Other	7	9%	
Talstar/Bifenthrin plus	5	6%	4 do additional bifenthrin/insecticide applications; 1 lawn mowing
Tick Killz - Cedarwood Oil plus	2	2%	2 have additional bifenthrin applications

Resident descriptions of tick program(s) used in 2025 regarding question 2 are on page 3.

Question 3:

Did you or any of your family members, including your pets, contract any tick-borne diseases during the spring, summer or fall of 2025 here on the island? If so, please describe.

Choices	Response	%	Further description such as disease contracted, etc. (Optional)
No	77	95%	We had no problems because we treated our lawn with an insecticide that actually works. Cedar oil can repel and kill some ticks, but its effect is modest and short lived
Yes	3	4%	-Treatment questionable along road sides that may not have been sprayed. Our dogs carried some home after walks. All of us had ticks on us. -My dog tested positive for possible Lyme in June. -Two of us (2.4%) contracted Lyme and babesia

Question 4:

As compared to previous years, did you notice any more or less tick activity on your property this year?

Choices	Response	%
No	39	48%
Unsure	28	35%
Yes	12	15%
- More	5	6%
- Less	4	5%
- No description	3	4%

Resident descriptions of the number of ticks found etc, for question 4 are on page 3.

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Further descriptions from residents for Questions 2 and 4

Question 2
Further description of tick program(s) used in 2025 (Optional)
In addition to utilizing Tick Boxes, we also used Tick Tubes in our firewood piles. Much mouse activity was noted in bot the boxes and the tubes.
Mosquito & tick spray every 21 days
LawnScience yard care includes tick control.
I am pretty sure we used the Cedarwood Oil, we chose whatever was recommended.
We use the Connecticut Tick Boxes from the original study
Unsure, I believe it is Sav A Tree that does our control.
Bifen application broadcast on property
we started with the Tick Killz and switched to Talstar, we were treated with Talstar in October
Pest control program X4 by Green Acres. This provides our lawn with an additional two rounds of tick control.
additional Talstar (different formulation than that provided by Seascape).
No other treatment on the yard, but my dogs take a monthly Flea/Tick/Heartworm preventative medicine.
Released lady bugs in bushes
lawn mowing

Question 4. Further description including # of ticks found, etc. (Optional)
Without dogs, it is hard to know change in population! In my wirking in the yard, I did not see any ticks.
Our dog had a few more ticks this year than in the past.
Not here year before to compare
We believe there was less tic activity in 2025, but can't specifically quantify that. We are not unhappy with the treatment program and would vote to continue in 2026 with the same program as in 2025.
I pulled more ticks off my dog this fall than ever before...
Tick not found. No pets. Probably from doing Spring yard work.
Fewer ticks this year. None.
No activity noted
No ticks found.
We did not have any ticks on our property nor did we find any on our dog from her running around in the yard. I think it worked very well and should be continued.
No ticks seen
My adjacent neighbor, a renter, noticed a huge uptick in ticks immediately following our treatment.
I found 4 ticks over the course of a few weeks on my dog early in the summer, nothing after that
We have always used insecticides and have never had problems.
more ticks - no problems
Definitely more in the late Spring and early summer vs previous years. Hence, the reason we reapplied the Talstar that MIFD skipped.
Less activity (wording of the survey question was confusing)
My dogs picked up a lot of ticks this summer and fall! Mostly when we were out on walks in the vicinity of Old South, Allyn's Alley, and Chippechaug. I did not keep count but there were days when I would find two or three ticks on each of my two dogs
Our dog is also given the Lyme vaccine annually. What we noticed was more ticks on her or on the floor or areas around here. Just in the month of June. They seemed to be the bigger ticks, or at least that is what we found. Often they were dead. Not deer ticks, but the larger ticks were much more evident on clothing in late May and early June. Then did not see them for the rest of the year.
Seemed to be more tick Activity
No previous bites; one this year