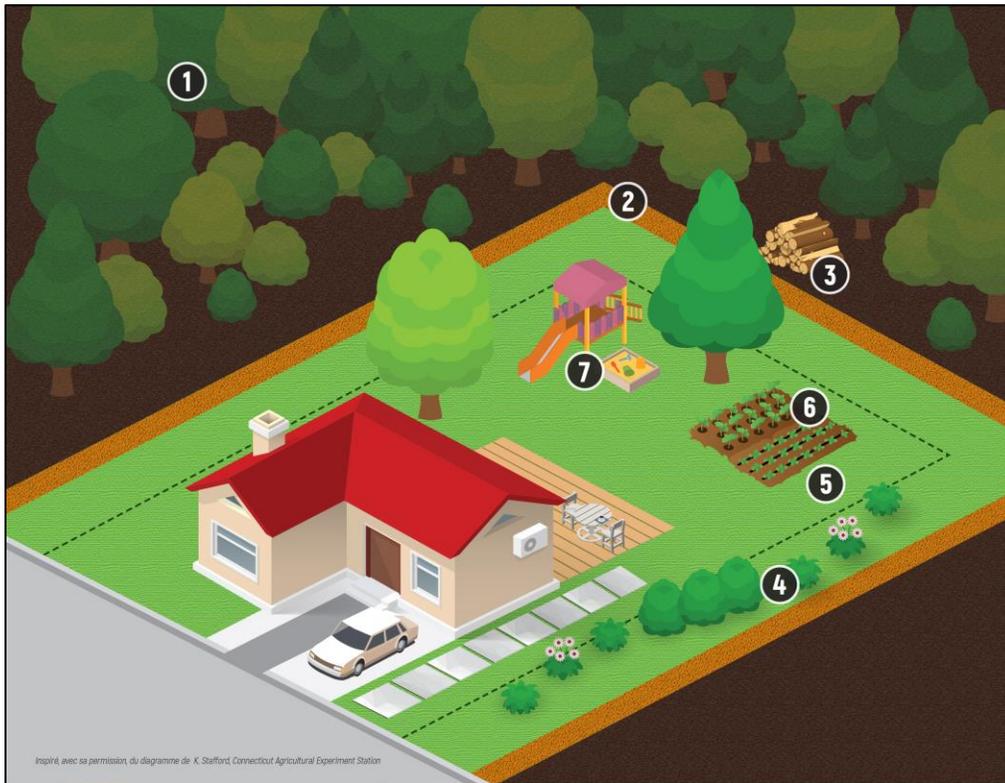




Modifying Your Landscape to Reduce Your Risk of Getting Lyme Disease



Blacklegged ticks, or *Ixodes scapularis*, are vectors for Lyme disease in Québec. They are primarily found in heavily wooded areas and the overgrown areas between woods and open spaces. If you live in a tick-infested area, following are a few precautions you can take to reduce tick habitat near your home.

- ❶ **TICK ZONE** Avoid areas with forest and brush where deer, rodents, and ticks are common.
- ❷ **WOOD CHIP BARRIER** Use a 3 ft. barrier of wood chips or rock to separate the « tick zone » and rocks walls from the lawn.
- ❸ **WOOD PILE** Keep wood piles outside the wood chip barrier, away from the home.
- ❹ **TICK MIGRATION ZONE** Maintain a 9 ft. barrier of lawn between the wood chips and areas such as patios, gardens, and play sets.
- ❺ **TICK SAFE ZONE** Enjoy daily living activities such as gardening and outdoor play inside this perimeter.
- ❻ & ❼ **GARDENS AND PLAY SETS** Keep play sets in the « tick safe zone » in areas where ticks have difficulty surviving.



Ticks are primarily found in heavily wooded areas and the overgrown areas between woods and open spaces. They hold onto plant stems and climb onto passing people or animals. Ticks do not jump and do not drop from trees. The presence of isolated trees in the yard is not a problem and protects from the sun.

There are fewer ticks in ornamental vegetation and grassy areas. In lawns, most ticks are found fewer than 3 metres from the outside edge of the lawn, particularly along woodlands and ornamental plantations.

Clear the boundary lines of your yard

- Remove leaf litter, brush and weeds at the edge of the lawn, woodpiles and sheds.
- Trim tree branches and shrubs around the lawn edge to let in more sunlight.
- Create a 3-foot or wider wood chip, mulch, or gravel border between lawn and woods.
- Move children's swing sets and sandboxes away from the woodland's edge and place them on a woodchip or mulch foundation.
- Consider putting down patio stones, pavers or gravel or using container planting for the portions of your yard closest to the house and that your family uses most frequently.
- Keep the grass mowed.

Discourage rodent activity near your house

- Clean up and seal stone and cement walls and small openings around the home. Move firewood piles and birdfeeders away from the house.

Spraying pesticides or acaricides is not appropriate