

MASON'S ISLAND TICK CONTROL PROGRAM – 2024

New/Changed Responses Due 30 March 2024

Mason's Island Fire District
P.O. Box 373
Mystic, CT 06355

Dear Residents,

The goal of the **MIFD Tick Control Committee** is to encourage universal tick control within the Fire District by providing a program that is effective, affordably priced and ecologically responsible. This 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 critical that we continue this successful program to limit tick-related illnesses for residents and their pets on Mason's Island.

In keeping with that goal, residents at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Mason's Island Fire District approved a mil rate that included tick control treatment for all single-family residence properties. This program will continue for 2024 and all homeowners are eligible for one of two MIFD tick control programs described below. Like previous years, residents no longer have to remember to send a check because this program is included in everyone's MIFD taxes.

Like last year, the 2024 MIFD Tick Control Program gives property owners 3 choices.

(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.)

The 3 choices are:

a). **Option 1 - Bio Tech.** Bio Tech is a licensed company from Westerly, RI that treats residential lots 2 times per year (Spring/Fall) with an organic-based, natural cedar oil and tick control product with a growth regulator that is applied with a sprayer to the perimeter of the property.

b) **Option 2 - Sea Scope.** Sea Scope is a licensed company from Coventry RI that treats 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 insecticide product called Bifen I/T or Talstar. The product that is normally used contains a granular insecticide that contains bifenthrin. It's applied with a spreader to the perimeter of each property. It can also be applied as a spray but normally Sea Scope uses the granular product. The product is not applied within 50 feet of any waterway.

c). **Option 3** - Please do not treat my property with any product.

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

No further action is required for those Property Owners who wish to continue with their previous 2022/23 choices in 2024.

For new property owners or those property owners changing their previous 2023 treatment option, please complete the form below.

Like last year, there will be an email survey this spring to gather data from MIFD residents about any human or pet health issues that they or their family encountered during the previous 12 months. Last year's survey data indicated that there were no reported instances of any human-related tick disease and only one reported instance of a pet-related tick disease.

Tick Control References:

Property owners are encouraged to review the 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.

- CT Agricultural Experiment Station: (Tick Management Handbook)
<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/>
- National Pesticide Information Center (Bifenthrin info): <http://nipc.orst.edu>
- University of Rhode Island: (Tick Encounter)
<https://web.uri.edu/tickencounter/prevention/protect-your-yard/>
- US Center for Disease Control (Preventing Ticks in Yard): <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/avoid/index.html>

Two important items to consider:

- 1) Bifenthrin is highly toxic to aquatic animals and bees. Because of the current algae control program in the pond, which includes special algae-eating carp, we request that property owners in the area of the pond do not choose Bifenthrin and instead choose the 1st or 3rd option on the form below. Also, please consider this if you keep bees on your property.
- 2) Cedar oil is applied to the perimeter of the property to drive ticks out of the brush and into the lawn where it is easier for birds and other natural predators of ticks to consume them. Therefore, please understand that there might be an increase in the number of ticks in lawn areas for a few days after it has been applied.

New property owners or those property owners requesting to change their treatment option from 2023 are asked to complete, sign, and submit the form at the end of this notice.

Due to the time needed to organize this program, please respond by 30 March 2024. Please submit completed forms to the address below via mail or email or hand delivery to:

Dave Ludwig
MIFD Tick Control Program
3 Yacht Club Road
Mason's Island
Mystic, CT 06355

Email: lud1nj@comcast.net (Subject: 2024 MIFD Tick Program)

For more information about the MIFD Tick Disease Prevention Program, visit the MIFD portion of the MIPOA website, www.mipoa.org or contact Dave Ludwig at 860-415-9185 or Fran Hoffman (franceshoffman1@gmail.com) at 908-403-5062

Please share this email with any neighbors that don't receive email.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation on this matter.

2024 MIFD Tick Control Program Option Selection Form

(Please note that if you don't want to change your previous year's choice you don't have to fill out this form.)

Printed Name: _____

Property Address/es: _____

Phone: _____

Email address: _____.

(This will be used for future tick-prevention notifications from MIFD and/or the tick control contractor)

If you are a new MIFD property owner or you wish to change your 2023 Tick Treatment Contractor Option or you wish no MIFD treatment at all, please select one of the following options.

Option 1: BioTech Pest Controls (www.biotechpestcontrols.com)

I hereby give BioTech Pest Control permission to apply two applications of an organic-based cedar oil product to the listed properties for the 2024 tick season.

I understand that this choice will stay in effect for future years unless I change it.

Signature Required: _____

Option 2: SeaScape Inc. (www.seascapeinc.com)

I hereby give SeaScape Inc. permission to apply three applications of a Bifenthrin-based tick control insecticide to the listed properties above for the 2024 tick season. This product will be applied to the perimeter of each listed property above excluding any area within 50 feet of any waterway. I understand that this choice will stay in effect for future years unless I change it.

Signature Required: _____

Option 3: Do Not Treat My Property

Please do not have either SeaScape or BioTech treat my property(s) for tick control. I understand that this choice will stay in effect for future years unless I change it.

Signature Required: _____