

2025 Masons Island Fire District Tick Control Program Selection

New/changed tick treatment choices from residents are due March 15, 2025

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 "4-Poster Tick Control Deer Feeder stations" in common areas.

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 2025 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

The MIFD Board decided the best value for both the natural-based cedar oil product and the synthetic pesticide product for 2025 would be delivered by our current 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 2024 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 2025 MIFD Tick Control Program gives property owners 3 choices.

- Option 1 - Natural-based cedar oil tick control product from Sea Scape

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 from Sea Scape:

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.)

The product is a granular-type pesticide that contains bifenthrin along with fertilizer. It's applied with a spreader to the perimeter of each property. It can also be applied as a spray but normally Sea Scape uses the granular product. The product is not applied within 50 feet of any waterway.

- 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 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), or may choose to forego any treatment of their property.

New property owners or those property owners wishing to change their previous 2024 treatment option, **please download, complete and return the form attached to this email to make your selection for 2025.** If no option choice is received from a new property owner, their lot will not be treated.

As always, there will be an email survey later 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.

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: [Preventing Tick Bites](#)

Two product 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 or have pets that frequent your property.

2) Natural tick control products that are applied to the perimeter of the property 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.

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

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

Thank you for your attention and cooperation on this matter.

2025 FOIA Update: Please note that as a public entity, MIFD is required to comply with the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) rules on public disclosure of information. Since the MIFD Tick Control Program operates under the provisions of the MIFD, your selection as provided on the attached form to MIFD, is considered public information and will be made available to those who request the information.