

Spray Tick-Infested Areas

HUNTERDON, N.J. — Studies indicate one spray application of Sevin at the same rate used for controlling gypsy moth caterpillars and other pests that feed on trees and shrubs will provide excellent control of adult ticks. Example: two tablespoons of 50% Sevin WP per gallon of water or 2 pounds of 50% Sevin WP in 100 gallons of water. Ground cover (ivy, pachysandra, etc.), shrubs in transition areas from grass to woods and other waist high veg-

etation usually harbor adult northern deer ticks. Turfgrass maintained at a normal mowing height will not maintain northern deer tick populations. Exceptions are shaded sites next to wooded areas. Northern deer ticks are very susceptible to desiccation. Therefore, turfgrass areas should not be treated for northern deer tick control.

During mid to late May and into early June is the appropriate time to control northern deer tick

nymphs. Granular formulations of Sevin are ideal because the granules filter down through foliage and concentrate in the leaf litter zone or areas close to the soil surface where nymph stages are found. High volume or pressure sprays which are directed through the shrub layer or ground cover can also be used; however, the spray must disturb or mix the leaf litter to be of value. Granule formulations are generally available as Sevin 7G or Sevin 8G and are applied at the rate of 2.5 to 3.0 pounds per 1,000 square feet. Insecticide applications are applied to ground covers, shrubs

and transition zones from lawns to wooded areas that contain shrubs. Pathways through woods and 10 to 20-foot swath areas along each side of paths should also be treated. Sevin is labeled for applications to shrub beds, ornamental plantings and wooded areas. Some common spreaders used for applying granular insecticide are as follows: Cyclone B-1, Cyclone Pro, Ortho Rotary, Scott's Rotary, Lesco Rotary and Solo mist blowers fitted with dusting attachment Part

No. 4900233. One insecticide application each year, during the late May to early June period has resulted in summer long control of northern deer tick nymphs for the past three years.

For copies of Rutgers Cooperative Extensions Fact Sheets on ticks and Lyme disease, send a SASE with your request to Rutgers Cooperative Extension, 4 Gauntt Place, Flemington, NJ, 08822 or stop by your county Extension Center.

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