

## Town of Kensington

### Tick Borne Disease Management Guidelines

#### Summary

The Kensington Board of Selectmen acknowledges the public health risk posed by the increasing incidence of Lyme Disease and other tick-borne illnesses. The town practices Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in its efforts to address this risk. These practices include 1) public outreach and education stressing the importance of personal protection; 2) selected habitat alterations that reduce tick populations to minimize human risk; and 3) if deemed necessary, the properly timed, limited use of pesticides as a targeted treatment. **Since no tick control method is 100% effective, personal protection should always be practiced.**

#### Public Outreach

The town will provide information and conduct community outreach activities to educate the public and raise awareness of tick-borne diseases, including in the areas of:

- Identifying ticks and their habitats
- Personal protection measures
- Tick-borne illnesses, including Lyme Disease
- Modifying residential landscape to reduce exposure to ticks

As resources allow, the Town may provide information and conduct outreach activities by:

- Including information and links on the Town website(s)
- Targeted Mailings
- Posting signage and making information available at town properties
- Appointing a volunteer Education Coordinator to coordinate educational opportunities in Town

#### Habitat Alterations

The Town will seek to have its properties maintained in accordance with recommended IPM practices to reduce tick habitats and create “tick-safe zones,” including

- keeping grass, weeds and brush mowed short
- removing leaf litter around buildings, edges of turf, playground and playing field perimeters
- reducing rodent habitats
- trimming trees and brush around areas where human activity is high
- keeping trails wide and clear of branches and brush
- maintaining a three-foot or wider wood chip, mulch or gravel border in recommended areas.

#### Pesticide Applications

In the Spring and in the Fall, if resources permit, the town may engage in the limited use of pesticide controls as a targeted treatment to reduce tick populations in accordance with these guidelines:

- The pesticides may only be applied by a licensed pest management professional with experience in the selection of appropriate pesticide formulation and application method, as well as knowledge of the biology, behavior, and habitat preference of the target tick species.

- The pest management professional will use the least toxic pesticide that is specified for tick control and approved application techniques that minimize exposure.
- Pesticides will not be applied when public activities are planned or when the public is present and required practices regarding notification and reentry will be followed.

The targeted treatment may be applied only in high risk municipal areas where avoidance of tick habitats is unlikely or not an option, determined in conjunction with the town's pest management company.

The town will test once in the Spring for tick presence in high risk municipal areas, with additional testing determined in consultation with the town's pest management company. Per current recommendation of the UNH Cooperative Extension, the testing will be targeted for late May to coincide with peak nymphal populations. If ticks are found in these areas in numbers exceeding the action threshold determined in consultation with the town's pest management company, the high risk areas will be treated once in accordance with requirements above. If ticks are not found in these areas in numbers exceeding the action threshold, the town will not apply pesticides for ticks in the Spring.

The town will test once in the Fall for tick presence in high risk municipal areas, with additional testing determined in consultation with the town's pest management company. Per current recommendation of the UNH Cooperative Extension, the testing will be targeted for October to coincide with peak adult populations. If ticks are found in these areas in numbers exceeding the action threshold determined in consultation with the town's pest management company, the high risk areas will be treated once in accordance with requirements above. If ticks are not found in these areas in numbers exceeding the action threshold, the town will not apply pesticides for ticks in the Fall.

#### Annual Review

The town will review these guidelines annually to ensure that they remain consistent with current research and recommended practices.

#### Public Records

The town will maintain and make available to the public all records pertaining to tick control, such as pest management proposals, costs, test results, product information, including MSDS sheets, and pesticide applications, if any.