

# Tick Season 2023 is Here!

Nancy Rae Mallery

Ticks are small blood-sucking parasites that are commonly found in the northeastern United States. They can carry and transmit diseases such as Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and Anaplasmosis, making it important for people to take steps to protect themselves from tick bites.

There are several factors that can affect the tick population in the Northeast. The most important of these is temperature, as ticks are highly sensitive to changes in weather patterns. Warmer temperatures can increase the tick population, while cooler temperatures can reduce it. Additionally, the presence of host species, such as deer and small mammals, can also affect the tick population, as these species provide food for the ticks. Finally, precipitation levels can also play a role, as dry conditions can reduce the number of ticks, while wet conditions can increase it.

To protect yourself and your pets from ticks, it is important to take several precautions. First, when spending time outdoors, especially in wooded or grassy areas, it is important to wear long pants and sleeves, and to use alternative insect repellents like lemon eucalyptus oil or permethrin-treated clothing. Also, it is



Photo courtesy of California Department of Public Health

important to regularly check yourself and your pets for ticks, and to remove any ticks you find as soon as possible. MaineJane's Tacklers can also be used as a preventative measure against tick bites.

There are also new tools and technologies that have been developed to help protect against tick bites. For example, tick-repellent clothing and gear can be treated with insecticides to provide long-lasting protection. There are also new types of tick collars for pets that contain insecticides, and there are even some tick-repellent sprays that can be applied directly to skin. (Read the directions about any precautions to protect yourself from the insecticides when petting your furry friends).

It is also a good idea to keep your yard tick-free by removing tall grass and weeds, and by keeping your lawn mowed, (hopefully with an electric mower). You can also use tick tubes, which are small cardboard tubes filled with treated cotton that can be placed around the yard to kill ticks before they reach you or your pets.

Nancy Rae Mallery is the editor of G.E.T. ♻️

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