



# The Golden Gait



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Mark Your Calendars

## EVENTS



Board Meeting  
Agility Trial  
Fall Hunt Test

July 9 – 7:00 pm (zoom)  
July 17 - 19  
September 12 - 13

## What's **INSIDE** this ISSUE

- President's Message
- Bugs are coming
- Plants that deter ticks



**Have Fun**  
*This Summer!*



It was a challenge not having our specialty this year. I missed seeing so many of our members and their beautiful golden's. The hard work that the committee put into it only to have it cancelled due to the COVID threat, was to say the least disappointing. Thanks in particular to Pat Depp and Tammy Tomlinson for the countless hours they put into planning. The efforts of the entire committee were very much appreciated and hopefully we can hold the specialty next year.

The Agility Trial is July 17th-19th at Countryside Agility Training Center in Erie. At this point the trial is scheduled with precautions being taken to keep everyone safe. Special thanks to Roseanna Frankowski and Gina Arch in Co-chairing this event. Good luck to everyone competing.

September 12th-13th is the Hunt Test at Hambden Ohio. Due to precautions with the virus, Pat Depp has stepped down as chair of the event and I will taking over. Our judges are still secured and we have a committee but we still need workers for both days. Please consider coming out to help the club even if you are not active in hunt tests. It is exciting to watch the dogs doing what they were bred to do. There are opportunities for everyone to get involved! Please contact me to volunteer or if you have any questions. Thank you in advance.

I hope you are staying cool and safe in these trying times. I hope we can get together soon with our Golden's.

Marcy Kronz  
GPGRC President





As everyone is aware, most events since February have been cancelled due to the Corona Virus. This included many of our club events including the Annual Awards Banquet. The board had hoped to have a summer picnic and distribute awards at the picnic. This also seems like something that will not be able to take place due to restrictions on how many are allowed to gather and the distance they must maintain in order to be safe from possible exposure.

For this reason the board has decided it will be best to mail the awards to the recipients. This should be done sometime in August if possible. Congratulations on all who accomplished events with your golden's.



# Bugs are Coming! Safe Products for Breeding Dogs + Coronavirus

Dr. Marty Greer brings her pragmatic Veterinary Voice to the topic of Coronavirus and what products are safe to use for flea, tick and heartworm prevention in breeding dogs.

COVID-19 is not currently believed to be communicable between humans and dogs. Coronavirus is a general term for a \*shape\* of a virus and encompasses a variety of viral infections in many species. For more information on recommendations regarding veterinary care during this outbreak, click [here](#).

As spring brings the reemergence of various creepy, crawly parasites that affect our dogs, Greer provides in-depth information about which products are safe for use on dogs in our breeding programs, including brood bitches and stud dogs over the course of time, as well as bitches in whelp.

Greer said, “I think it’s really appropriate for us to stick to the EPA and FDA approved drugs that we know have been tested and safe in breeding animals. So, for instance, Bravecto says there were no clinically relevant treatment-related effects on body weights, food consumption, reproductive performance, semen analysis, litter data, gross necropsy or Histology findings in adults and puppies. So we need to be looking for that kind of language on a label before we go slapping things on or popping things into our dogs … I just want to be perfectly clear for what products have or have not been tested.

“So there’s three basic categories of flea and tick medications. There’s the collar, there’s the topical, the oil that goes over the back of the neck or down the back and there’s the tablets or the chewables. So there are the three general categories and of those three there’s no collar .... labeled for that use in breeding dogs … the topicals, some are definitely labeled and some are not definitely labeled. ...if it says like Frontline says safe for breeding, pregnant and lactating dogs and cats, then it’s safe. If it doesn’t say that you shouldn’t use it. It needs to be clear. And if we look at the oral there’s .... three oral medications that are not labeled for use in breeding animals. Bravecto is labeled for use in breeding animals. So we need to be really, really clear that we’re looking at the labels or reading the instructions and we’re thinking at eight weeks of age, what is the this dog’s future, not just is she pregnant right now, but what is her future.”

Product	Active Ingredients	Purpose/Effective Against	Minimum Age/Weight	Pregnant/Nursing/Male
<b>Heartworm</b>				
Advantage Multi for Dogs	Imidacloprid and moidectin	Flea, louse, heartworm, hookworm, whipworm, roundworm and mange. Topical every 30 days	7 weeks/3lbs	Safety not established.
Advantage Multi for Cats	Imidacloprid and moxidectin	Ear mites, flea, heartworm, hookworm and roundworm. Topical every 30 days	9 weeks/2 lbs	Safety not established.
Heartgard Plus	Ivermectin, Pyrantel pamoate	Heartworm, roundworms & hookworms Tablet every 30 days Dog: Heartworm. Tablet every 30 days	6 weeks	Safe in pregnant or breeding bitches, stud dogs
Heartgard	<b>Ivermectin</b>	Cat: Heartworm and hookworm. Tablet every 30 days	6 weeks	Safe
Interceptor	<b>Milbemycin oxime</b>	Heartworm, hookworm, whipworm, roundworm. Every 30 days	Dog: 4 weeks/2 lbs	Dogs: Safe Cat: Not established

		Cat: 6 weeks/1.5lbs	
Interceptor Plus	<b>Milbemycin oxime and praziquantel tablet</b>	Heartworm, roundworm ( <i>Toxocara canis</i> , <i>Toxascaris leonina</i> ), adult hookworm ( <i>Ancylostoma caninum</i> ), puppies 2 pounds of body weight or greater and 6 weeks of age and older.	Dogs and Safe Not evaluated in breeding, pregnant or lactating dogs. Only milbemycin has been studied and is safe.
Iverhart Max	Ivermectin, Pyrantel pamoate, praziquantel	adult whipworm ( <i>Trichuris vulpis</i> ), and adult tapeworm ( <i>Taenia pisiformis</i> , <i>Echinococcus multilocularis</i> and <i>Echinococcus granulosus</i> ) Tablet every 30 days	<del>Safe in pregnant or breeding bitches, stud dogs</del> Not evaluated in pregnant or lactating. Safe in males.
Iverhart Plus	Ivermectin, Pyrantel pamoate	Heartworm, roundworms, hookworms, and tapeworms. Tablet every 30 days	Safe in pregnant or breeding bitches, stud dogs To prevent roundworm infection, <b>REVOLUTION</b> should be administered at monthly intervals during pregnancy with a dose administered approximately 2 weeks before parturition. The next treatment should be administered to the bitch or queen, ten days after parturition and followed by another treatment 1 month later. This schedule of treatments for bitches and queens will prevent adult roundworm infections in suckling puppies and kittens for 7 weeks after birth.
Revolution	Selamectin	Dog: Heartworm, Fleas, flea eggs, scabies, ear mites, hookworms, roundworms, lice ( <i>Trichodectes canis</i> ), ticks ( <i>Haemaphysalis leachi</i> & <i>Rhipicephalus sanguineus</i> ), Topical every 30 days.  Cat: Heartworm, roundworm, hookworm, fleas and mites. Topical every 30 days.	Dog: 6 weeks Cat: 8 weeks Safe in pregnant or breeding bitches, stud dogs To prevent roundworm infection, <b>REVOLUTION</b> should be administered at monthly intervals during pregnancy with a dose administered approximately 2 weeks before parturition. The next treatment should be administered to the bitch or queen, ten days after parturition and followed by another treatment 1 month later. This schedule of treatments for bitches and queens will prevent adult roundworm infections in suckling puppies and kittens for 7 weeks after birth.
Sentinel	Milbemycin, Lufenuron	Heartworm, roundworms, 4 weeks & 2 whipworms, hookworms lbs	Safe

Sentinel Spectrum	Milbemycin, Lufenuron, Praziquantel	& flea eggs. Tablet every 30 days Heartworm, roundworms, whipworms, hookworms & flea eggs, tapeworms. Tablet every 30 days	6 weeks & 2 lbs	Not tested
Tri-Heart Plus	Ivermectin, Pyrantel pamoate	Heartworm, roundworms and hookworms every 30 days	6 weeks	Safe
Trifexis	Milbemycin oxime and Spinosad	Heartworm, fleas, roundworms, hookworms, & whipworms. Tablet every 30 days	8 weeks & 5 lbs	Not safe in pregnancy due to fetal malformations, not evaluated in males. Caution in dogs with seizure history. Use with caution in breeding females.
<b>Flea and Tick</b>				
Advantage II	Imidacloprid & insect growth regulator (pyriproxyfen)	Adult fleas, flea larvae, flea eggs, lice. Every 30 days	3 pounds & 7 weeks	Consult your veterinarian before using this product on debilitated, aged, pregnant or nursing dogs. Consult a veterinarian before using on sick, aged pregnant or nursing animals.
BioGroom	Pyrethrin shampoo	Kills fleas, ticks, lice, and ear mites.	5 pounds & 12 weeks	
BioSpot	Etofenprox, Piperonyl, Pyriproxyfen (Nylar®)	Fleas, Flea Eggs, Flea Larvae, Tick, Tick Nymphs, Tick Larvae, Brown Dog Ticks, Deer Ticks	12 weeks.	No
Active Care Spot on	(S)-Methoprene	Kills & Repels: Mosquitoes		
Bravecto	Fluralaner	Every 30 days.  Dog: Fleas, ticks 12 weeks ( <i>Ixodes scapularis</i> – black-legged tick, <i>Dermacentor variabilis</i> – American dog tick, and <i>Rhipicephalus sanguineus</i> – brown dog tick), and for 8 weeks ( <i>Amblyomma americanum</i> – lone star tick). Topical	Dog: 6 months/4.4 lbs  Cat: 6 months/2.6 lbs	Dog: There were no clinically-relevant, treatment-related effects on the body weights, food consumption, reproductive performance, semen analysis, litter data, gross necropsy (adult dogs) or histopathology findings (adult dogs and puppies). Bravecto has not been shown to be effective for 12-weeks duration in

		Cat: Flea, ticks 12 weeks <i>(Ixodes scapularis</i> – black-legged tick. <i>Dermacentor</i> <i>variabilis</i> (American dog tick) infestations for 8 weeks. Topical	puppies less than 6 months of age. Cat: Not established.
Capstar tabs	Nitenpyram	Dog and Cat: Fleas as often as 1 x a day Deer ticks, Gulf Coast ticks, Black legged ticks, Brown Dog ticks, American Dog ticks, 5 pounds & 8 Lone Star ticks, Yellow weeks Dog ticks, European Dog ticks, Wood ticks, and Paralysis ticks	4 weeks/2 lbs Birth defects & fetal loss
Certifect	Fipronil, Amitraz S-methoprene		Can also be used on breeding pregnant and lactating bitches.
Comfortis	Spinosad	Dog: Fleas. Tablet every 3.3 pounds & 30 days 14 weeks	<p><b>The safe use of COMFORTIS in breeding, pregnant, or lactating cats has not been evaluated. Caution in dogs with seizure history.</b></p> <p>Safety has not been evaluated in breeding males. Use with caution in breeding females.</p>
Credelio	Lotilaner	Dog: Adult fleas <i>(Ctenocephalides felis)</i> and ticks [ <i>Amblyomma</i> <i>americanum</i> (lone star tick), <i>Dermacentor</i> <i>variabilis</i> (American dog tick), <i>Ixodes</i> <i>scapularis</i> (black-legged tick) & <i>Rhipicephalus</i> <i>sanguineus</i> (brown dog tick). Tablet every 30 days.	<p>The safe use of CREDELIO in breeding, pregnant or lactating dogs has not been evaluated. Use with caution in dogs with a history of seizures.</p>
FiproGuard	Fipronil & s- methoprene	Fleas & ticks. Every 30 8 weeks	Safe for breeding, pregnant, and lactating dogs
FiproGuard Plus	Fipronil, (s)- methoprene, and <b>nevaluron</b>	Dog and Cat: Fleas, ticks, Dog: 8 weeks and lice. Cat: 8 Topical every 30 days. weeks/1.5lbs	Safe for breeding, pregnant, and lactating dog and cat.

Frontline	Fipronil	Fleas, ticks and chewing lice. Waterproof. Every 30 days.	8 weeks	Can be used on breeding, pregnant & lactating bitches
Frontline Plus	Fipronil and (S)-methoprene	Dog: Fleas including eggs & larvae, ticks, mites/mange, and lice. Topical every 30 days. Cat:Fleas including eggs & larvae, ticks and lice. Waterproof. Topical every 30 days.	Dog: 8 weeks/5 lbs Cat: 8 weeks/1.5lbs	Safe for breeding, pregnant, and lactating dog and cats.
Frontline Spray	Fipronil	Fleas, Ticks and Chewing Lice. – Kills all life stages of ticks (larva, nymph and adult), including brown dog ticks ( <i>Rhipicephalus sanguineus</i> ), American dog ticks ( <i>Dermacentor variabilis</i> ), lone star ticks ( <i>Amblyomma americanum</i> ) and deer ticks ( <i>Ixodes scapularis</i> ). Wear gloves. Approximately 1 to 2 pumps per pound of the animal's body weight will be required. Pets with long or dense coats will require the higher rate. Waterproof. 30 to 90 days.	8 weeks	Approved for use on all dogs, including breeding, pregnant, and lactating bitches and puppies as young as 8 weeks.
Frontline Gold	Fipronil, (s)-methoprene, pyriproxyfen	Cats and dogs: Flea, tick and chewing lice.	Dog: 8 weeks/5lbs Cat: 8 weeks/1.5lbs	Safe
Hartz First Defense	Fipronil	Fleas, ticks and chewing lice. Waterproof. Every 30 days.	8 weeks	<b>BREEDING, PREGNANT AND LACTATING BITCHES,</b> NO CATS. Consult your veterinarian before using this product on debilitated, aged, pregnant or nursing animals.
K9 Advantix II	Imidacloprid, Permethrin*, & Pyriproxyfen	Ticks, fleas, mosquitoes, biting flies and lice. Every 30 days, can reapply in 7 days.	7 weeks/4lbs	Not tested. Caution in dogs with seizure history.
Nexgard	Afoxolaner	Fleas & ticks. Every 30 days.	8 weeks & 4 lbs	

PetArmor	Fipronil	Fleas & ticks. Every 30 days.	8 weeks	Safe for breeding, pregnant, and lactating dogs
PetArmor Plus for Dogs	Fipronil and S-Methoprene	Adult fleas, flea eggs, flea larvae, ticks, chewing lice and prevents the development of flea pupae. It controls mites that may cause sarcoptic mange and kills deer ticks that can transmit Lyme disease. It also kills brown dog ticks, American dog ticks, and lone star ticks and prevents flea reinfestations for 4 weeks.	8 weeks.	Safe for breeding, pregnant, and lactating dogs
Preventic Collar	Amitraz	Ticks for 90 days	12 weeks	Not tested. No cats.
Revolution	Selamectin	Heartworm, fleas & flea eggs, ear mites, Sarcoptes, American Dog Tick. Every 30 days	Dog: 6 weeks Cat: 8 weeks	Safe
Scalibor Protector Band	Deltamethrin	Fleas & ticks. Every 6 months.	12 weeks	Consult a veterinarian before using this product on debilitated, aged, pregnant, medicated, or nursing animals.
Sentry Capguard	Nitenpyram	Fleas.  Dog: Peppermint oil, cinnamon oil, lemongrass oil, clove oil & thyme oil  Cat: Peppermint oil, clove oil, & lemongrass oil.	2 pounds & 4 weeks	Birth defects & fetal loss
Sentry Natural Defense		Fleas, ticks and mosquitoes. Every 30 days	12 weeks	Attacks octopamine. Consult vet.
Seresto collar	Flumethrin & Imidacloprid	Fleas, ticks, lice, sarcoptic mites. 8 months	7 weeks and 18 pounds	Consult your veterinarian before using this product on debilitated, aged, breeding, pregnant, or nursing animals.
Simparica	Sarolaner	Adult fleas, and is indicated for the treatment and prevention of flea infestations (Ctenocephalides felis), and the treatment and	6 months & 2.8 pounds	Not tested

		control of tick infestations [Amblyomma americanum (Lone Star tick), Amblyomma maculatum (Gulf Coast tick), Dermacentor variabilis (American dog tick), and Rhipicephalus sanguineus (brown dog tick)]. Every 30 days.	
Spectra Shield	Zetacypermethrin & Piperonyl Butoxide	Fleas & ticks. Lasts up to 6 months 4 months.	If used on pregnant or nursing dogs, do not replace medallion until puppies are at least 6 weeks old.
Vectra 3D	Dinotefuran, Pyriproxyfen, & Permethrin	Fleas & ticks. Every 30 days. Mosquito & biting flies, sand mites, lice repellency. Water repellency. "Hot foot" effect before they bite.	8 weeks & 2.5 pounds Label says "do not use"
Vet's Best Natural Flea & Tick spot-on	Clove Leaf Oil, Thyme White Oil, Cinnamon Oil	Fleas and ticks, repels mosquitos.	12 weeks Label is silent.

## 21 Plants That Repel Ticks: Fresh Smells We Love & Ticks Hate!

Updated: Nov 27, 2019 | Categories: [Garden](#)

# 21 Plants That Repel Ticks: Fresh Smells We Love & Ticks Hate!



I've been planning some flower beds around trees (less weed-eating around big roots!) and next to the house and figured I should use some plants that repel ticks.

It's on my mind with the recent news about Lyme disease. I know a couple of people that have come down with that disease and it sounds simply terrible.

I live in a very wooded area and absolutely hate petting the dog or cat only to find a big bump in their fur. I'm sure you can all relate, finding a big tick on the back of your head or in your arm pit.

With that I started researching plants ticks hate. Deterring them from even entering the property should go a long way to keeping them off myself and my little pet buddies.

Let me share with you what I discovered. Most sites only list a few of these plants that deter ticks, but since I always enter my completionist research mode, I managed to turn up a lot more than three or four.

## What Plants Repel Ticks?

Below is a quick list of plants that repel ticks due to their chemical makeup. The upside is we love them. They include wonderfully smelling flowers, tasty herbs, and visually gorgeous plants.

Please read carefully though, because some of these can be toxic to your pets, especially if we're talking about a cat that likes to wander through the flower bed.

### Lavender



Everybody (but ticks) enjoy the rich purple color of lavender as well as its fragrance. Mosquitos and moths apparently hate it too, which makes it a triple threat of a flower to grow in your yard.

We love it so much it's in air fresheners, used as a culinary herb, an essential oil, in traditional medicine, and even in cosmetics.

You probably already know if you're one of the rare few, but lavender can irritate eczema or facial dermatitis when applied directly to the skin.

If that's you, it's best to avoid growing it or at least wear gloves and take care not to touch your face when working in the garden.

Also, it can induce nausea and vomiting in your pets if they ingest it, so please be aware.

## Pennyroyal



Mentha pulegium, or Pennyroyal, is another member of the mint family and a natural tick repellent. It's among the more effective plants that mosquito and ticks dislike, but

watch it because it can spread quickly. And because it grows so easily, that's a double warning.

Fortunately it's fairly attractive. The bulbs have a "fuzzy" type of flowing with pretty light purple leaves and pistils. They grow in tiers and will have flowering up along the stalk. I like them and think they look great in a more wild yard where they're allowed to grow tall.

## **Garlic**



This one may even repel you! I have friends that want more and more garlic in their food, and others that can't stand it. If you can't stand it, you might be a tick, because they also hate this plant.

Like other herbs mentioned in this post, you can later crush the cloves and use them in the kitchen. If you don't do that, you can consider crushing them up and tossing it around borders of your yard as they move out of season.

## **Sage**



This perennial herb is often used as a companion plant to repel ticks, fleas, and other insects due to its odor. Notice I didn't say fragrance because some people can't stand it while others (like me) love it.

Once I discovered it as a cooking herb, I fell in love and have grown it in my kitchen window sill since.

If you like the smell, great. It's also non-toxic to dogs and cats. It's not particularly pretty but can bring a lot of green to an herb garden or flower bed. But better yet, it runs off those pesky blood-sucking insects.

### **Beautyberry**



Beautyberry bushes are so pretty. They have small purple berries growing along them, but it is the leaves that act as the natural insect repellent. Deer ticks, mosquitos, and even ants will stay away from these plants.

The USDA's Natural Products Utilization Research Unit found that it's almost as effective as DEET, including a 100% [repellency of black-legged ticks](#) for three hours.

### **Chrysanthemums**



Chrysanthemums contain a chemical called pyrethrum that is a natural pesticide for fleas and ticks. It totally shuts down their nervous systems, so they stay as far away as possible.

You'll see these called mums, sometimes. They're beautiful, coming in various bright colors like pink, orange, purple, and yellow.

They can brighten up any garden with their big colorful bulbs that flower into spheres. They keep tons of pests away and look so good, there's zero reason not to include them in your tick-repelling mission.

These can cause vomiting and diarrhea in pets if they're dumb enough to eat it.

## Eucalyptus



Eucalyptus oils, like peppermint and citrus oils, repel ticks greatly. You can grow these into bushes or even trees. The oils that run off our insect enemies come from the leaves, but the wood and leaves are used in tons of industries.

Depending on the sub-type of eucalyptus you grow, they can look real refined as trees or can be far more like a shrub and a mess you need to maintain. But either way they get the job done that we're looking for.

## Mint



People suggest planting mint in pots rather than in the ground due to how quickly and aggressively it spreads. That's not a huge problem because it smells wonderful and drives away insects. The aromatic oil in the leaves are what gets the job done.

Many people say that containers of mint placed on your porch or around your yard can do wonders in driving off insects, mainly ticks and mosquitos. Sounds like a great replacement for screening in your patio!

## Rosemary



Like sage, some people don't like the smell of rosemary while others think it's the bee's knees. I think it looks cool and I love it when the purple / blue flowers begin to bloom.

What I like best is the prospect of repelling ticks while planting something I would have planted anyways. When your pets brush against it, it'll add some repellent to their coat, too.

Rosemary is a very common culinary herb, so if you're into that you can pull double duty and dry it out, crush it in a mortar and pestle, and add it to your dinner.

You've heard the song "Parsley, Sage, Rosemary, & Thyme." Those four simply go together, the opposite of me and insects.

## Wormwood



Known as *Artemisia absinthium*, it was once (and I guess still is) used to make an intoxicating drink. For the same reason, ticks don't like it due to the way the smell and chemicals make them feel.

Wormwood grows into a shrub that can be up to three feet high, so think of this less like a plant and kind of like a bush. When in bloom, the flowers are a pretty yellow. But all in all it's not that attractive of a plant, in my opinion. But the ticks hate it!

### Catnip



Obviously, your cat will love you for planting this tick deterrent. Not only do ticks despise catnip, but so do cockroaches and mosquitos. Some people suggest crushing up dried catnip (the kind you buy at the store) and rubbing it into your cat's fur. I don't go this far.

Another issue is your cat can get real hyper around these and tear up your garden, so don't plant them too close to other flowers. Also, you may possibly attract other neighborhood cats, which isn't typically an issue unless they're feral.

### Rue



Rue is an evergreen herb that has blue / metallic leaves. Not only does it act as an insect repellent but it also has antifungal and antimicrobial properties, helping out the other plants around it. Flies, beetles, and slugs dislike this as much as ticks do.

Their smell drives all kinds of bugs crazy, especially ticks and fleas. Cat's don't like it either so you don't have to worry about them tearing up the plants. Just don't plant it next to your catnip if you want your feline friend to enjoy it.

### Fleabane Daisy



Obviously from the daisy family, the fleabane daisy is a tall flower very similar to chamomile in appearance, though they can include white and pink shades of flowers.

They fit into any garden but look great against walls, particularly. They have a cosmopolitan distribution, largely in grassland and dry mountainous regions.

The name tells you exactly what they're good for. They are the bane of ticks and fleas, or so people say. Some call it superstition, and others swear by their efficacy. Give it a shot, who cares! They look great regardless.

### Lemongrass



You know about citronella candles to keep flying insects away. Citronella is a natural oil that comes from lemongrass, which is an ornamental grass that can grow up to four

feet tall. It's an annual that many people plant around their sidewalks or against their homes.

It's used in culinary dishes too, like Chinese chicken and pork recipes and in soups. Please know that lemongrass can cause stomach upsets in your pets.

I think these look a lot better in a pot than in the grass, myself, probably because I grew up having to maintain it at my parent's house.

## **Geranium**



Geranium, especially rose geranium, are great mosquito repellents but keep ticks at bay as well. They grow fast, especially in sunny and dry areas. They look great in flower beds or as decorations in and around vegetable gardens.

Growing up, we'd find this growing wild in fields all the time. They're gorgeous with small, colorful flowers. You probably recognize them from the photo above. They can have a "wild" appearance, but the flowers are so pretty.

## **Mexican Marigolds**



The nice thing about marigolds are they're easy to grow due to their hardiness. They'll grow in nearly any conditions and are great at repelling whiteflies, nematodes, and of course ticks.

Unless you get up close, you won't smell them that obviously, but insects can smell the foliage and say "nope, not going in that yard today."

You'll rarely see a more beautiful flower. They're round and thick, ranging somewhere between yellow and orange in their petals. If you look and can't find seeds or potted flowers, check for the alternate name, Aztec marigold.

## **Chamomile**



Most people are aware of chamomile because it makes a wonderful, calming tea. But guess what else it does? You've got it, it keeps ticks away thanks to its fragrance.

They must be crazy, but hey, who am I to argue with parasites? The further away they are from me, the happier I am.

Not only do these yellow flowers with white petals bring a sense of innocence and joy to your garden, they supposedly have health benefits to surrounding plants, perhaps because they keep pests away.

I'll take it! Try making your own tea if you grow chamomile, but only drink it in the evenings.

## **Sweet Basil**



Basil is another herb that is used for a ton of purposes, but ours is as a companion plant that drives away various types of insects. Make sure that you plant it in an area that receives at least six to seven hours of sunlight to help it thrive.

You want to know what plants repel ticks, so please make sure that if you plant basil for that reason that you choose sweet basil (Genovese basil). It has a strong scent of cloves that you'll appreciate, but our little tick friends will find disgusting.

It's an annual (as opposed to perennial) so you'll have to work to keep it around each year, but it's worth it.

### Venus Flytrap



You may find these goofy (I do), but these crazy plants demolish ticks, fleas, and flies for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. They need direct sunlight and prefer high moisture. They're honestly kind of cool to have around.

I mean, what's not to like about a meat-eating plant with giant jaws and teeth that devour pests all day and night? It reminds me of "The Little Shop of Horrors" movie, though, so don't let them grow too large...

### Thyme



Thyme is another tasty, perennial evergreen. I didn't realize this but it's a member of the mint family Lamiaceae and related to oregano. It's been around forever, even in

ancient Egypt and Greece. It's been used as an incense for thousands of years, so you know it smells great.

You can use it for its main purpose, as a culinary herb, but for us, I'd leave it for the length of its lifetime due to its power in keeping ticks away. When it flowers, it has small, white petals that bring a nice feel to an otherwise boring yard, fence border, sidewalk, or flowerbed.

## Sunflowers



It's said that the vitamin B1 found in sunflower seeds repels ticks. I'm not clear if you need to crush up the seeds to have the oils seep out or what, but either way I think sunflowers are wonderful. I'm a big fan of tall and big flowers.

Getting up close and really taking in the beauty of the intricate sunflower flower is an amazing experience. The best part is you can always take some to your mother in a vase for her birthday or Mother's Day.

## Plants Ticks Hate & We Love

Thankfully we love the plants that ticks hate. But why are people concerned with repelling ticks? Let's talk about some of the basics of why these insects can be devastating to our lives.

Ticks are a type of arachnid (like spiders), part of the Parasitiformes order, closely related to mites in the subclass Acari. They are parasitic, engaging in hematophagy, meaning they live by feeding on the blood of larger animals and people.

They've been around since the Cretaceous period. We know this since we've found them fossilized in amber like on the Jurassic Park movie. They even snacked on dinosaurs.

There's two main families, called Ixodidae or hard ticks, and Argasidae or soft ticks. They have eight legs and a beak that contains the mouth, which is embedded in your skin to gain access to your blood.

The main problem with all this is that they're huge vectors of diseases and they are pervasive.



They're sinister. There's even ones called the spinose ear tick that get into the ears of animals like dogs and cattle. Tropical bond ticks are a big problem in Africa and the Caribbean.

In North America the *Ixodes scapularis* is how we end up with Lyme disease. They're mainly found in the ecotone, which is the transitional habitat between woodlands and grasslands.

That means a great way to keep the population down in your yard is to remove brush, weeds, and leaf litter in your yard, especially if you have trees. This gets rid of shade and moist areas where they deposit their eggs.

## Plants That Deter Ticks & Their Diseases

Here's a list of just some of the diseases that are communicable by tick. They include pathogens, bacteria, viruses, and protozoa. The number is nearly endless, so here's just a sampling:

- Queensland tick typhus
- African tick bite fever
- Rocky Mountain spotted fever
- Lyme disease
- Q fever
- Colorado tick fever
- Crimean Congo hemorrhagic fever

- tularemia
- Bourbon virus
- Tick-borne meningoencephalitis
- Anaplasmosis
- Heartland virus

That's a tiny sampling. There's even stuff like the Australian paralysis tick that are venomous and cause tick paralysis.

The depth and breadth of the problems they can cause are life threatening in the immediate and in general, causing huge disruptions in life quality. Take for example the lone star tick that can cause red-meat allergies in their victims. It's ridiculous.

## **Plants That Keep Ticks Away Smell Great**

The worst part about ticks is the diseases they carry. The second best part is they can be kept away easily by doing something you'd do anyways, which is maintaining a flowerbed or garden.

Notice I said second best before, because I was saving the ultimate benefit of all of our effort for last: we get left with amazingly colorful and wonderfully smelling flowers and plants in our yard.





### **Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA)**

All Golden lovers are encouraged to join our Parent Club, GRCA. The GR News is published bi-monthly by the GRCA and contains educational articles, provides a forum for issues of interest to Golden owners, highlights Golden accomplishments and contains correspondent columns from the Member Clubs across the country. Contact the Editor for more information.

### **GREATER PITTSBURGH GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB (GPGRC)**

- Member club of the Golden retriever Club of America, Inc. (GRCA)  
Master National Retriever Club (MNRC)  
Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs, Inc. (PFDC)
- Licensed by the American Kennel Club (AKC) for Conformation Shows and Obedience, Rally and Agility Trials and Hunt Tests.

General Membership Meeting is held the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Membership applications are available from the Membership Chairperson. Attendance at two Club functions (one being a General Membership Meeting) and endorsement of two Club Members is required before an application can be accepted. Dues are: Regular Membership (individual) - \$25.00, a second adult – an additional \$13.00. Associate Membership (individual) - \$15.00, a second adult – an additional \$8.00. Junior Membership - \$1.00. Completed applications and dues are to be submitted to the Membership Chair.

Newsletter is posted monthly on the Club's Website at [www.gpgrc.org](http://www.gpgrc.org). Club members may request printed, mailed copies of the *Golden Gait* for a fee of \$20 per year.

Litter advertisements are accepted from Club Members only on a space available basis. (Fees are full page - \$10; half page - \$5; quarter page - \$2.50.) Refer to the Puppy Referral Policy and Breeder Code of Ethics for required clearances.

In summary, puppy referral is a service provided to GPGRC Members only. (1) Both sire and dam must be two years of age or older at the time of breeding; (2) copies of eye clearances within one year of breeding must be supplied; and (3) an OFA numbers for hips and elbows must be submitted. Also hearts must be evaluated by an approved veterinary cardiologist.

Acceptance and use of the information provided by GPGRC constitutes an acknowledgment that the user hereby releases and indemnifies the GPGRC and its Officers, Directors, Members and Agents from any and all liability and damages sustained by the user as a result of any information obtained from this organization.

Title/Award Record Form should be filled out and sent to the Accomplishments Recorder for all Conformation, Obedience, Tracking, Agility, Rally, Field Events or Community Service Events before they can be reported in the Newsletter.

## Monthly Meeting

The monthly meetings are temporarily on hold due to Covid 19. Stay tuned for more information when they will start back up.

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Program  
Vacant  
Accepting Club Member Ideas and Requests to board members

Rescue Liaison  
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*Please email pictures of your dogs that can be used in future issues to [sallydines4120@gmail.com](mailto:sallydines4120@gmail.com)*

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