


Horticultural Points of Interest – March 2019

- **Deer Ticks**

- Ticks are already out (young Ticks shown here actual size) 
 - Easily overlooked
- Deer Ticks carry Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis and Powassan
 - 30% carry Lyme
 - Lyme can be difficult to Diagnose and difficult to Treat
 - Untreated in rare cases can lead to Paralysis
 - 5% carry Anaplasmosis
 - Similar to Lyme but usually less severe
 - 5% carry Babesiosis
 - Blood borne parasite similar to malaria
 - Babesiosis can be dangerous, occasionally Fatal
 - 0.5-3% carry Powassan
 - Dangerous virus disease for which there is no good Treatment
 - 50% permanent neurological Symptoms and 10% Fatality
 - In Massachusetts in 2017: 8500 reported cases of Lyme disease, 600 cases of Babesiosis, 1200 cases of Anaplasmosis and 2 cases of Powassan
 - Cape Ann has had many cases of Lyme, Babesiosis and Anaplasmosis
 - Beverly Hospital is excellent at diagnosing these
 - Family Member had Babesiosis
- Use Caution in Cleaning up and working in the Garden
 - Wear light colored Clothing to be able detect the Ticks
 - Tuck pants into Socks
 - Nerdy looking but important
 - Use Repellent on your Skin
 - Wear Clothing treated with Permethrin
 - Artificial Pyrethroid
 - Derived from Pyrethrum Daisy Flowers
 - Repels most insects and quickly kills Ticks on the Clothing
 - Safe if used as Directed
 - Must use a Permethrin designed for treating Clothing
 - Sawyer Permethrin
 - Available from Amazon
 - Video on how to Treat complete set of Shirt, Pants, Socks with 12 oz Spray
 - Lasts 6 Weeks or More
 - Treat set of Clothing and store in Garage or Basement
 - Lasts through 6 Washes but must wash separately from other Clothing

- **Start Annuals from Seed**

- Much easier than Perennials
 - Now is the Appropriate time to Start
 - Early start ensures Vigor and early Flowers
- Use Commercial Seed Starter Mix or equal parts Vermiculite, milled Sphagnum and Perlite
 - Seed packet usually gives Planting depth
 - If not, sow tiny seeds on Surface, larger Seeds a few Seed Diameters deep
- Need Bright Light from either Window or Fluorescent Light Bulbs
 - Shop Lights about 6" above growing tips of plants
- After Last Frost over a two week period slowly Acclimate to Sun by starting with Partial Shade and gradually Moving to Full Sun

- **Birdhouses**

- Put out Birdhouses now
 - Buy or Build your own (<http://www.natureskills.com/featured/how-to-build-a-bird-house/>)
- Clean out older Birdhouses now
 - Nest materials from last year often includes Parasites

- **Orchard Bee Nests**

- Buy them and put them out now
 - Corliss Nursery has them at a reasonable Price
- Make your own
 - (<http://gardening.wsu.edu/library/inse006/inse006.htm>)
- Bees are active in early Spring and so are especially suited for pollinating Fruit Trees