

Homemade traditional remedies against ticks on dog and cat

In the following a selection of medicinal plants with some reported efficacy against **ticks** is listed:

- ***Allium sativum*** (Garlic). Onions and leaves contain **alliin** and **allicin**. In some regions it is used against [lice](#). It is also recommended as a pet food capable of repelling [ticks](#). It also shows efficacy against *Ascarid roundworms* and certain lungworms, but only as a preventative, because it does not prevent egg production by the worms in the intestine of the host, but only egg hatching in the host's feces. The anthelmintic effect seems to be due to its high **sulfur** content. It is used locally, mixed with other herbs. It can be mixed with food as fresh garlic or powdered. There are also garlic pills: 2 to 4 can be enough for lambs. For dairy animals it is recommended to administer it after milking, otherwise the milk will get garlic taste.
- ***Azadirachta indica*** (Neem, Nimm, Bevu, etc.) is a tree native to the Indian subcontinent. Nowadays it is found worldwide in tropical and sub-tropical regions. It contains [azadirachtin](#), a vastly used biopesticide. Water and alcoholic extracts have shown promising efficacy against various [ticks](#) (e.g. [Boophilus](#), [Amblyomma](#), and [Rhipicephalus](#)) in field trials. In certain countries there are already commercial neem products for use on livestock. For domestic use, neem oil has a repellent effect against [flies](#) and other insects. It seems that it also works against [mange mites](#). To get the oil, barked seeds are grinded to obtain a brown and sticky powder. This powder is mixed with water and the resulting paste is pressed to slowly obtain the oil. The leaves (preferably adult ones after fruiting) can also be left to soak in water for a few days. Efficacy of neem against [parasitic worms](#) is controversial: some reports confirm it; most studies do not.
- ***Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium*** (Daisies, Mums, Chrysants, Xants) is a perennial flowering plant native to Asia and Southeast Europe, nowadays cultivated worldwide. They are vastly used as ornamentals and for the production of natural [pyrethrins](#), the most widely used natural insecticides. Pyrethrins are effective against numerous insects, ticks and mites.
- ***Citrus maxima*** (Pomelo) and ***Citrus reticulata*** (Mandarine) are citrus trees native to Asia nowadays grown worldwide in regions with tropical or moderate climate. The peel is very rich in [D-limonene](#). In laboratory studies peel extracts showed promising efficacy against adult [Boophilus](#) ticks. D-limonene is widely used as insect [repellent](#) in numerous OTC pet products.
- ***Cymbopogon nardus*** and ***Cymbopogon winterianus*** (Barbed Wire Grass, Citronella Grass, Lemon Grass, etc.) are perennial grasses native to Asia, nowadays found worldwide in regions with tropical and temperate climate. The oil contains [citronellal](#), [geraniol](#), [D-limonene](#), [camphene](#), etc. The oil or single chemicals are widely used as insect [repellents](#) in numerous OTC products (shampoos, sprays, lotions, dusts, etc.) for pets.
- ***Gynandropsis (=Cleome) gynandra*** (Spider Flower, Apoi-Apoian, etc.) is an annual herbaceous plant. The seeds seem to have insecticidal properties against myiases, [ticks](#), [lice](#) and [mites](#). Alcoholic extracts of stems and leaves showed efficacy against [flukes](#) (*Fasciola hepatica*) and [tapeworms](#) (*Taenia solium*).
- ***Juglans nigra*** (Eastern Black Walnut) is a large tree native to Eastern USA, nowadays also cultivated in Europe and elsewhere. Contains [juglone](#), which can be **toxic** to other plants and some animals. The water extract (soak leaves for a few hours in water and then boil them) applied topically to animals is said to repel [flies](#). Grinded leaves scattered on the ground are said to keep [ticks](#), [lice](#), and [mites](#) off stables, kennels, piggeries, poultry houses, etc.
- ***Mammea americana*** (Mamey, Mammee, Mammee Apple, etc.) is a perennial tree native to tropical America, now cultivated in tropical Africa and Asia as well. Shavings or slices of half ripe fruits soaked in water allow pressing a greenish gummy fluid which seems to kill [fleas](#), [ticks](#), and [lice](#). Seed powder topically applied to animals is said to have the same effect.
- ***Mentha pulegium*** (Pennyroyal, Mosquito Plant, Pudding Grass, Squaw Mint, etc.) is a perennial grass native to Europe now widespread in the whole world. Grinded dried leaves seem to work against [fleas](#) and [ticks](#) on domestic animals. The powder can be used for dusting the animals' hair coat or the resting places of pets or birds. The water extract can also be used for bathing pets. The essential oil was effective against [red poultry mites](#) (*Dermanyssus gallinae*) in laboratory trials. However, the **essential oil** should never be used on humans or pets because it is **very toxic**, even at very low levels.
- ***Origanum minutiflorum*** (Wild Origanum) is a perennial herb native to the Mediterranean and Eastern Asia, nowadays cultivated worldwide. The essential oil contains [thymol](#) and [carvacrol](#), both chemicals with insecticidal properties. In laboratory studies it showed efficacy against [ticks](#).
- ***Pimenta dioica*** (Jamaica Pepper, Myrtle Pepper, Newspice, Pimienta, etc.) is a perennial tree native to Central America and the Caribbean now grown in many tropical and subtropical regions. The fruits contain [eugenol](#) and [caryophyllene](#), both with insecticidal activity against [fleas](#), [flies](#), [ticks](#) and [mites](#).
- ***Rosmarinus officinalis*** (Rosemary) is a perennial herb native to the Mediterranean now cultivated worldwide. The essential oil contains several chemicals with insecticidal properties, e.g. [camphor](#), [eucalyptol](#) and [pinenes](#). Grinded leaves are said to repel [fleas](#) and [ticks](#).