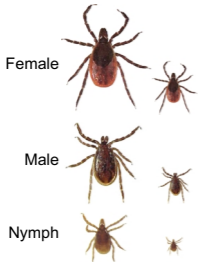


COMMON TICK SPECIES IN NEW JERSEY

Blacklegged Tick

(a.k.a. deer tick)
Lyme disease vector



Lone Star Tick



American Dog Tick



Ticks to the left are enlarged to show detail. Ticks to the right represent actual size.

The Blacklegged Tick *Ixodes scapularis*

The **female blacklegged tick** (a.k.a. deer tick) has a tear drop shape with a red-dish orange abdomen and solid black dorsal shield. The **male** is smaller and a uniform black in color. The **nymph** also has a tear drop shape, but is a dark brown to black in color.

The Lone Star Tick *Amblyomma americanum*

The **female lone star tick** is more roundish and has a single, white spot in the center of it's body. The **male**, also round, has a chestnut brown color with no distinguishing markings. The **nymph** is a uniform light brown color and round in comparison to the deer tick.

The American Dog Tick *Dermacentor variabilis*

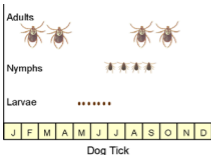
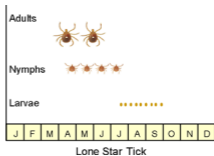
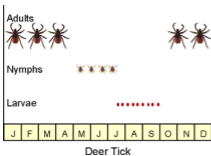
The **female dog tick** is oblong with white markings on the dorsal shield. The abdomen is dark brown. The **male** has white markings over its entire body. The **nymph** is oblong and a solid dark brown in color.

Tick-borne Diseases Program
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AND THE
MONMOUTH COUNTY MOSQUITO EXTERMINATION COMMISSION



Months of activity for each of the life stages of the three most common tick species in New Jersey. Nymphal blacklegged ticks (a.k.a. deer ticks) are most active from May through July when most cases of Lyme disease are contracted.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- Female and nymphal ticks feed and can transmit diseases.
- Male blacklegged ticks (a.k.a. deer ticks) do not feed and do not transmit diseases. *(they do attach to hosts but do not need blood for egg production)*
- Removing a blacklegged tick within 24 hours greatly reduces the likelihood of Lyme disease transmission.
- Not all ticks are infected. On average 20-50% of blacklegged ticks are able to transmit diseases.
- Personal precautions (wearing pants, using repellents, etc.) provide the best protection from contracting tick-borne diseases.
- Attached ticks can be saved for later identification and testing