

A Bug's Life

Ticks

Family: Ixodidae (Hard ticks)

Fun facts

- Ticks are arachnids, not insects
- 3 hosts required for development
- Locate host by questing and CO2
- Can remain embedded for days feeding on blood, becoming engorged
- Latch on near ground level and crawl upward to feeding area, often scalp, armpit, groin area and other crevices

Identification

Eggs: Laid in mass outdoors

Larva: Tiny with 3 pairs of legs

Nymph: 4 pairs of legs

Adult: Flat, wingless, hardened body, species identified by color/markings/patterns, length of mouthparts, festoons. Size depends on age and tick species, but they are very small!

Management

- Treat pets with preventative
- Perform thorough and frequent tick checks of person, pets, children
- Remove prompt and properly
- Use insect repellent on skin or wear permethrin-treated clothing
- Put clothes in hot clothes dryer for 30-min after outdoor activities

Ticks do not drop from trees



American dog tick



Lone star tick



Blacklegged tick



- Use pointy tweezers
- Grasp close to skin
- Pull steadily and straight out

Photos: J. Green