

# Blacklegged Ticks

## Bayer Solutions



### // THE PROBLEM

Blacklegged ticks have become increasingly abundant in many regions of Canada. These arthropods are considered to be a major public health threat due to their ability to transmit a wide range of human illnesses including Lyme disease and anaplasmosis.

### // LIFE CYCLE & BEHAVIOUR

Blacklegged ticks have a two-year life cycle. Females can lay up to 18,000 eggs each spring. In summer, the eggs hatch into six-legged larva that feed on blood from small animals such as birds and mice, which allows the ticks to spread diseases. By the following spring, the larvae will become eight-legged nymphs that can feed on larger animals such as deer and humans. In the fall, the nymphs will reach maturity and complete the life cycle.

Because blacklegged ticks cannot fly or jump, they have to crawl up vegetation or onto structures in order to cling to a passing host. Once attached, the ticks will remain with the host and feed for several days. Current data suggests the greatest chance of human infection occurs from late spring through summer.

### // REGIONAL TERRITORY & LOCAL HABITATS

Geographically, tick populations are expanding north at an estimated rate of 45 km per year, which is likely due to increasing warmth in recent decades and changes in animal migration patterns. One example of this expansion is the lone star tick, which is native to the southern United States but can now be found in southern Ontario. Blacklegged tick populations increase rapidly each spring and reach peak numbers by early to mid-summer, while deer ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*) can maintain high populations through the fall months.

Common habitats of ticks on golf courses include:\*

- Long grass areas, such as native areas in roughs and along select bunker faces
- Areas in or near tree-lined perimeters
- On ornamental plantings or dense shrubbery, especially those grown in shade

\*Public Health Ontario has stated that blacklegged ticks can be transported by migratory birds and small mammals, which makes it possible to encounter an infected blacklegged tick almost anywhere.

### // BAYER CONTROL SOLUTIONS

DeltaGard® SC, containing the active ingredient deltamethrin, is now labelled for control of blacklegged ticks. It is a fast-acting, broad-spectrum pyrethroid insecticide registered for control of ticks, ants, chinch bugs, cutworm and sod webworm on turfgrass.

For blacklegged tick control, treat with DeltaGard SC at a rate of 12 mL per 100 m<sup>2</sup> in a carrier volume of 8 L per 100 m<sup>2</sup>. Apply to the parts of the course that are most susceptible to tick populations, such as long grass (native roughs and bunker faces), tree-lined perimeters, dense shrubbery and shady areas.

### OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES:

- Government of Canada
- Public Health Ontario
- United States Golf Association

For more information about disease and insect control strategies, contact your local Territory Sales Manager.



Out on the course, we all have moments that errant shots lead us off the beaten path and into naturalized areas. Make sure when you come back to the playing area you don't bring any opportunistic freeloaders with you!

## // WHY ARE TICKS A CONCERN?

Certain ticks, such as blacklegged ticks (BLT), can carry bacteria that cause Lyme disease, and are a major public health concern. Lyme disease is on the rise in Canada as these ticks continue to spread into new areas

## // HOW TO AVOID GETTING A TICK BITE



### COVER UP BY WEARING

- // light-coloured clothing, so it's easier to see ticks
- // closed-toed shoes
- // long pants, tucked into your socks
- // long-sleeved shirts



### USE INSECT REPELLENT

Use an insect repellent, or bug spray, that says "DEET" or "icaridin" on it. Put it on your clothes and exposed skin. Always read the label for directions on how to use it.



### PUT CLOTHES IN THE DRYER

Kill any ticks that might be on your clothing by putting your clothes in a dryer on high heat for at least 10 minutes before washing them



### CHECK YOURSELF

After being outdoors, check for ticks on yourself. Look behind your knees, on your head, in your belly button, in your groin area, in your underarm area, on the back of your body (use a mirror, or ask someone to check for you).

## // REMOVING TICKS

Removing ticks within 24-36 hours after the tick bite usually prevents infection. You can remove a tick that has latched onto you by following these steps:

- 1 Using clean tweezers, grasp the head as close to the skin as possible and slowly pull straight out. Try not to twist or crush the tick.
- 2 If the mouthparts break off and remain in the skin, remove them with tweezers or, if you are unable to remove them easily, leave them alone and let the skin heal. Consult your healthcare provider.
- 3 Wash the bite area and your hands with soap and water or disinfect with alcohol hand sanitizer.
- 4 Try to save the tick that bit you in a sealed container and record the date of the bite. Bring it to your medical appointment as it may help the doctor in their assessment of your illness.

