

The "New" Tick in Town

- There are reports of the North American **Lone Star tick** (*Amblyomma americanum*) as far back as the **late 1700s**.



EXPANDING!

- **Range includes Southeast, mid-Atlantic, and South-central states but expanding north and west.**
- Lone Stars are aggressive biters and require forests with dense undergrowth.



KNOWN DISEASES

- Ehrlichia (**can begin transmission within 6 hours**), tularemia, southern tick-associated rash illness (STARI) – pathogen unknown, and Heartland virus (rare)

EHRlichia transmission possible within 6 HOURS!

PREVENTION

- **Wear permethrin-treated shoes and clothing when in tick habitat.**
- Tuck in shirts and socks.
- Perform careful tick checks.
- Remove any biting tick promptly with a pointy tweezers, save it for testing or take a photo.

Tuck



Treat



Check



Adults (female/male)

Adults emerge in the early spring and remain active throughout the summer.



Nymphs
May - August

Larvae
July - October



(Sometimes called "seed ticks")

IDENTIFICATION

- Adult female Lone Star ticks have a **bright yellowish-white dot at the base of their scutum**, light brown body.
- Males are light brown and their scutums are mottled with black and a few white streaks.
- Nymphs and six-legged larvae are round with long, straight mouth-parts.
- All change in appearance and size when they feed.



RED MEAT ALLERGY

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- Bites cause sensitivity to a carbohydrate on mammalian meat cells called alpha-gal
- Early symptoms: gastrointestinal upset (**nausea, diarrhea, indigestion**) but most commonly general itchiness.



GASTROINTESTINAL UPSET GENERAL ITCHINESS

- **The allergy can take 1-3 months after the tick bite to appear.** Allergic reactions occur 2-6 hours after ingestion of mammalian meat (e.g. pork, beef, lamb – not poultry or fish).
- Reaction can include hives and rashes or anaphylaxis
- You can be tested for the allergy after Lone Star bite exposure. Limited evidence has shown that the allergy can wane by avoiding additional tick bites.



<http://bit.ly/lonestarsalphagal>