**Common Tick Species in New Jersey**

**Blacklegged Tick**  
(a.k.a. deer tick)  
Lyme disease vector

- Female
- Male
- Nymph

**Lone Star Tick**

- Female
- Male
- Nymph

**American Dog Tick**

- Female
- Male
- Nymph

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

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**The Blacklegged Tick**  
*Ixodes scapularis*

The female blacklegged tick (a.k.a. deer tick) has a tear drop shape with a reddish 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.

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**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.

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**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.

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Tick-borne Diseases Program  
Monmouth County Mosquito Commission  
P.O. Box 162, Eatontown, NJ 07724  
(Tel) 732-542-3630  (Fax) 732-542-3267  
ticks@co.monmouth.nj.us  
www.visitmonmouth.com/mosquito
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.