

## Pest Profile



**Photo credit:** By Katja Schulz from Washington, D. C., USA (Lone Star Tick) [CC BY 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>)], via Wikimedia Commons

**Common Name:** Lone Star Tick, Specklback

**Scientific Name:** *Amblyomma americanum* (Linnaeus)

**Order and Family:** Acari: Ixodidae

**Size and Appearance:** Hence their common name, the Lonestar tick has a single light colored dot on the upper back of the female. Both sexes are reddish brown with a gray coloration when engorged. The adults of this species are slightly larger than the Black-legged and Brown Dog Ticks.

	<b>Length (mm)</b>	<b>Appearance</b>
<b>Egg</b>	< 1 mm	Dark brown, small eggs laid in clusters of 1-3,000.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Instar- 0.2 mm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Instar- 1.32 mm	1 <sup>st</sup> Instar- 6 legs, small, brownish red 2 <sup>nd</sup> Instar- darker, 8 legs present
<b>Adult</b>	Unengorged Female: 3.2 mm Males: 2.9 mm	Flattened body, red/brown with gray coloration when engorged. Females have white spot on upper back.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Chelicerate (chewing, sucking)

**Host animal/s:** *Amblyomma americanum* (Linnaeus) uses several mammals as hosts at all stages of its lifecycle. Common choices include gray fox, cottontail rabbit, striped skunk, gray squirrel, cat, chickens, dogs, cattle, white-tailed deer, and humans.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Nymphs require a blood meal in order to progress to adults. However, they can survive without nourishment for up to 470 days. They use their arachnid mouthparts to attach to a host and proceed to drain blood until they are engorged. Once engorged, ticks mate, lay eggs, and repeat the cycle. Lone Star Ticks are vectors of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Human Monocytic Ehrlichiosis (HME), making the species of medical importance.

**References:**

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Blood Feeders- Lone Star Tick. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (pp. 23-24). National Pest Management Association International.

Lone Star Tick. (2013). University of Florida. Retrieved June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from [http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/urban/medical/lone\\_star\\_tick.htm](http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/urban/medical/lone_star_tick.htm)

Lone Star Tick In Kentucky. University of Kentucky. Retrieved June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from <https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef648>