

Pest Profile



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Common Name: Western Black Legged Tick

Scientific Name: *Ixodes pacificus*

Order and Family: Acari: Ixodidae

Size and Appearance: The Western Black legged tick is the chief carrier of Lyme's Disease on the West Coast. Similar in size and appearance to its Eastern cousin, the adults are small, have few distinguishing marks, with the female having a more robust orange coloration. The brighter body makes the black legs more striking, hence their namesake.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	< 0.05 mm	Eggs are dark brown, laid in clusters of about 3,000.
Larva/Nymph	0.7- 1.8 mm in length, depending on instar	1 st Instar- 6 legs with brownish-reddish coloration Subsequent instars- darken in color and have 8 legs present.
Adult	2.0 mm- up to 2.8 mm if female is fully engorged	Flattened, slightly oval body with brownish reddish coloration. Legs are always black. Adults do not have visible eyes.
Pupa (if applicable)		

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Piercing/sucking

Host /stored food products: *Ixodes pacificus* will require three hosts in order to complete its life cycle. Like its Eastern counterpart, it chooses a rodent for early instars, and nymphs move up to slightly larger rodents and mammals. Adults feed on deer, humans, dogs, and other large mammals.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults):

The Western Black Legged Tick serves as the primary vector for Lyme's Disease on the West Coast. The spirochete, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, that causes the disease is picked up from rodents fed on by the tick who then passes it on to larger species.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Blood Feeders- Black Legged Ticks. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (3.10.1). National Pest Management Association International.

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