

Asian Longhorned Tick



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The Asian Longhorned Tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*) is native to temperate areas of East and Central Asia as well as Pacific islands. The species was not known to be present on the US until 2017, when it was first discovered in New Jersey. It is now found in 17 eastern states and is a rapidly spreading invasive species. It can survive winters, reproduces asexually, and parasitizes birds which carry it rapidly to new environments. Unfed ticks can survive for close to a year, nymphs and adult females the longest. This tick transmits theileriosis to cattle which causes blood loss, death of calves, and decreased milk production. In sheep it decreases wool quantity and quality. Lyme Disease, Rickettsiosis, Ehrlichiosis, and encephalitis virus organisms have been found in these ticks. So far, human pathogens have not been detected in these ticks in the US.

Black Widow Spider



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The Black Widow spider (*Latrodectus*) is a small spider with an unusually potent venom containing the neurotoxin latrotoxin. Females have unusually large venom glands and their bite can be particularly harmful, but rarely causes death. Only the bites of the females are dangerous to humans usually delivered when unintentionally squeezed or pinched. Female widow spiders are dark brown or a shiny black, typically having a red or orange hourglass on the underside of the abdomen. The males have red or red and white markings on the upper side of the abdomen. They prefer to nest near the ground in dark and undisturbed areas. They often hang upside down near the center of their web awaiting insects to blunder in. Their prey consists of flies, mosquitoes, grasshoppers, beetles, and caterpillars. They are found on every continent of the world except Antarctica.