



It's Really Going Places.

Best Management Practices

Deer Ticks

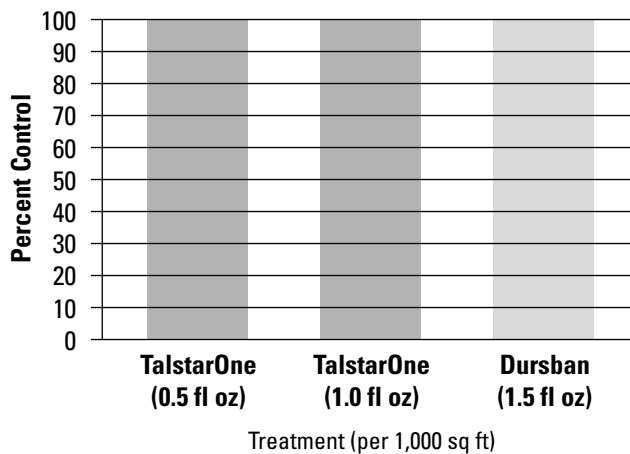
Background: The deer tick (*Ixodes scapularis*) also known as the black-legged tick is found throughout the Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, and some areas of the Southwest. Deer ticks are the primary vector for a variety of diseases including Lyme disease, babesiosis, and ehrlichiosis. Over the past 10 years over 100,000 cases of disease caused by deer ticks have been reported. Deer tick populations continue to increase and as their populations grow so does the risk of contracting a tick-borne disease. As a consequence, there is an increased demand for pest managers to develop and implement effective deer tick control programs in both residential and recreational areas.

Description: Deer ticks are parasites and must feed on blood to survive and reproduce. They begin their life as tiny eggs, which hatch into sexually immature larvae about the size of a grain of sand. The mobile stages of this pest climb onto foliage or structures like fences or buildings waiting for potential hosts to wander by. The larval ticks infest small animals, such as mice or birds, for several days, taking in blood until they are engorged and drop off the host, usually into leaf litter or thatch. The engorged larvae molt into sexually immature, eight-legged nymphs, which are about the size of a poppy seed. These nymphs then take a blood meal, usually on a small to medium sized mammal such as a squirrel or rabbit, feeding for four or five days. The engorged nymphs drop off the host and eventually molt into a sexually mature eight-legged adult. The adults latch onto a large mammal such as a deer where they mate where the females subsequently attach and feed for about a week. They then drop off and lay eggs. This whole process can take two years with peak activity occurring in different seasons. From a public health perspective, it is most important to control the nymphal tick because 90% of all Lyme disease cases are due to bites from this life stage.

Management: Ticks require a moist environment to survive and thus are most often found in wooded areas. But ticks can frequently be abundant in suburban edge habitats, in stone walls, fences, and even in lawns, so treatment for deer ticks involves treating broad areas. Some simple steps can be taken to reduce the potential for tick bites. Keep vegetation cut low and apply tick repellents to clothing, long pants and long sleeved shirts when frequenting places where ticks may hide. Wear light colored clothing to make personal inspection for ticks easier.

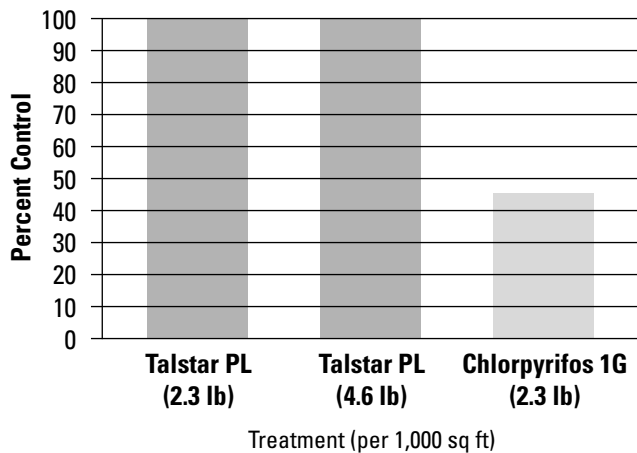
In treating a tick infestation, treatment time is critical as nymphs are most abundant from June to August when people are frequently outdoors enjoying their yards. If ticks have already been found on the property, it is best to treat the entire yard with a spray to knock down the infestation and follow with long residual granule application to prevent reinfestation. Apply TalstarOne™ multi-insecticide 20 ounces per acre to knock down tick infestation and apply Talstar® PL granular insecticide or Talstar® EZ granular insecticide at 100 - 200 pounds per acre as a preventative. Be sure to treat buffer areas next to woods and spray fences and building siding where mites are known to hide.

**TalstarOne™ Multi-insecticide
Deer Tick (*Ixodes*) Control**



**Trial Conducted by: Dr. Rick Brandenburg;
North Carolina State University; 1996**

**Talstar® PL Granular Insecticide
Deer Tick (*Ixodes*) Control**



**Trial Conducted by: Dr. Rick Brandenburg;
North Carolina State University; 1996**

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