

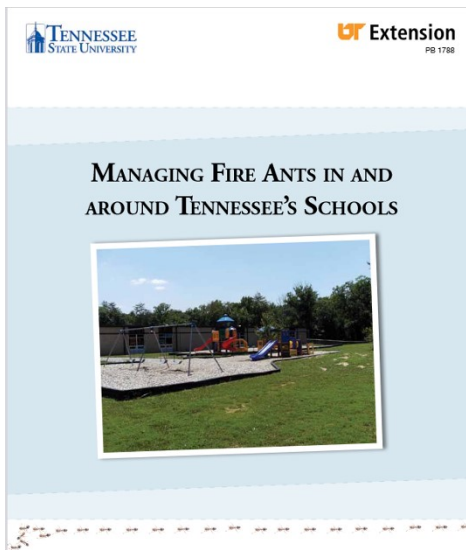


## Pests and Pesticides in Child-serving Facilities: An IPM Newsletter

### Last Chance to Bait Fire Ants this Year?

Karen Vail

Rain from the remains of Hurricane Zeta is expected to lower temperatures in Tennessee for about a week, dropping temperatures below the lower recommended limit for fire ant baiting. A sampling of weather forecasts for a few locations across the state indicates that in most places with fire ants, next Thursday, November 5th, may provide the dry ground and temperatures at or above 70 degrees F to optimize fire ant foraging to baits. So if COVID-19 prevention activities have kept you too preoccupied to think about fire ants, you'll have at least one more shot to reduce these populations. A fire ant sting causes a fiery, burning sensation resulting in a pustule that can last several weeks. Rarely, in less than 5% of the population, more severe reactions can occur sending the victim into anaphylactic shock. Fire ant control is extremely important on elementary school grounds, especially playgrounds, because younger children may not have learned the consequences associated with



2020 Fire Ant Products for Tennessee's Schools  
by Formulation, Active Ingredient, Application Method and Use Site

Intended as a supplement to UT Extension publication,  
"PB 1788 Managing Fire Ants in and Around Schools"  
[extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/PB1788.pdf](http://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/PB1788.pdf)

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W 649

this ant. Athletic fields currently in use on all school properties should be a priority too. Rather than review the options for treating fire ants, I refer you to a detailed

explanation in UT Extension's PB1788 [Managing Fire Ants in and around Tennessee's Schools](#) and it's companion publication, UT Extension's W649 [2020 Fire Ant Products for Tennessee's Schools by Formulation, Active Ingredient, Application Method and Use Site](#).

## Special Points of Interest

Working through the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has been extremely challenging for the entire community. Let us know if there is anything pest-related that we can do to make your job easier.

## This issue

Last Chance to Treat Fire Ants this Year?	1
We're the Volunteer State and We're Looking for Volunteers!	2
Ticks on School Property?	3
We Want to Hear from You	4
Additional Resources	4
Links/Contacts	5

## We're the Volunteer State and We're Looking for Volunteers!

Every year we seek volunteers to participate in a school IPM demonstration. I almost said, "and this year is no different," but it is. Procedures to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 are dominating your daily thoughts and actions. However, many pests have been unaffected by the pandemic. Well, one exception is rodents that have noticed garbage production from restaurants has declined and are becoming more aggressive in seeking food in other locations during the day.

I'd like you to think about your school buildings and properties. Do you have any significant pest problems that need to be addressed but you've been unable to find the time or resources to do so? When asking school staff this question we often note a twinkle in the principals' eyes, and before they can speak, we interject that we are referring to pests with four or more legs. Or do you have pest conducive conditions that need to be repaired or removed to prevent a pest outbreak? If so, you should VOLUNTEER to participate in a demonstration project.



Bat droppings detected during an inspection of a demonstration school.

Participating in a school IPM project involves adopting IPM practices in your schools with cooperation of your pest management professional, and installing and using a logbook to record all pest-related activities. Our Urban IPM team usually conducts an initial inspection of the demonstration school to note pest conducive conditions and makes recommendations to remediate them. We also have grant funding to provide about \$700 worth of supplies to help fix these conducive conditions. In the past we have purchased sealable plastic totes to hold snacks and edible supplies in classrooms of younger students or for pest-susceptible kitchen supplies. One year, with the aid of a UT Extension engineer, we purchased drainage pipes and provided plans to the school system to help them install the pipes to prevent water from accumulating at the base of the school and moisture-loving pests from establishing. Recently we noticed signs of a heavy bat infestation in an

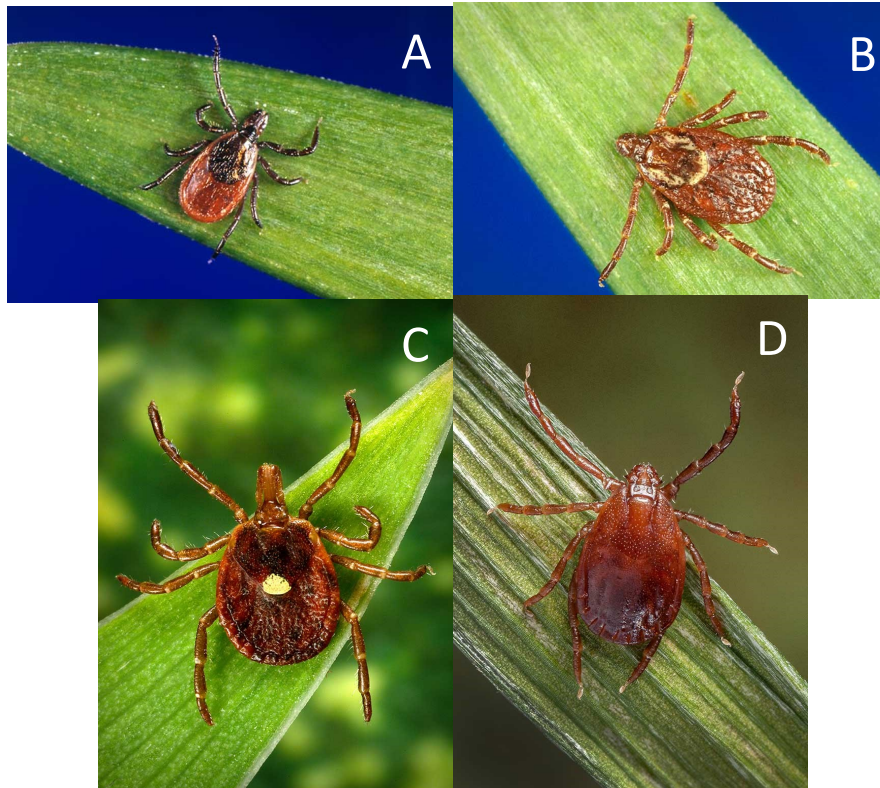
elementary school gym in the summer thus giving the school personnel time to install an exclusion system and remove droppings before classes started.

If the use of your school system property is hampered by fire ants you should consider participating in a demonstration. It is too late to coordinate a bait application before cold weather sets in this year so we would plan for a spring treatment.

This year we are attempting to restrict our travel. We are asking county Extension agents to help with the demonstrations, especially with fire ant bait broadcasting that require specific temperatures and dry ground. It's very difficult to plan a trip based on these conditions given that the weather forecast can change and we would need to travel to the site, conduct the demonstration at suitable temperatures and drive back all in the same day. Under nonCOVID conditions this would be less of a problem because we could spend several days for our visit.

## Ticks on School Property?

Since school personnel are limiting visitors to the school's interior, this is a good year to address the conducive conditions leading to other outdoor arthropod pest problems. We are particularly interested in the tick species and their distribution on school property throughout Tennessee. You'll recall in last year's August newsletter we described a tick new to Tennessee, the Asian longhorned tick, *Haemaphysalis longicornis* which is now found in 10 Tennessee counties and 15 US states. *Ixodes scapularis*, the blacklegged or deer tick, the primary vector of the organism that causes Lyme disease, has been increasing its distribution throughout the state. *Ixodes* is active as an adult in the winter and could be easily detected on campuses using a drag cloth. Some of our most common ticks that are more closely associated with humans, the American dog tick, *Dermacentor variabilis*, and the lone star tick, *Amblyoma americanum*, are active in the warmer months. We will be reaching out to local school systems about permission to drag their property.



Adult female black-legged tick (A), American dog tick (B), lone star tick (C), and Asian longhorned tick (D). Credit: [CDC tick gallery](#)

## We Want to Hear from You

Working through the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has been extremely challenging for the entire community. Let us know if there is anything pest-related that we can do to make your job easier. Would you like us to hold a webinar on a certain subject or hold a question and answer session once-a-month? We can help with pest identifications or troubleshoot a pest problem. Just let us know. Our contact information is on the last page.

## Additional Resources for subjects mentioned in this newsletter

**Got Bats?** <http://schoolipm.utk.edu/documents/newsletters/Sept2015.pdf>

**Drainage System Installed at Robbins Elementary** <http://schoolipm.utk.edu/documents/newsletters/Sept2018.pdf>

**PB1788 Managing Fire Ants in and around Tennessee's Schools** <https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/PB1788.pdf>

**W649 2020 Fire Ant Products for Tennessee's Schools by Formulation, Active Ingredient, Application Method and Use Site** <https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W649.pdf>

**There's a new tick in town, the Asian longhorned tick** <http://schoolipm.utk.edu/documents/newsletters/August2019.pdf>

**Tennessee Ticks** <https://www.tnticks.org/>

**Upcoming EPA School Integrated Pest Management Webinars** <https://www.epa.gov/managing-pests-schools/upcoming-integrated-pest-management-webinars>





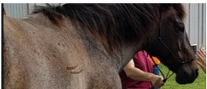

The screenshot shows the website <https://www.tnticks.org/hosts-habitats>. The page title is "TENNESSEE TICKS". The navigation menu includes: Home, Asian Longhorned Tick Project, How-To Information, and Additional Information.

### HOSTS & HABITATS

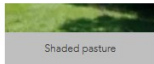
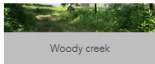

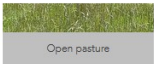
Thus far, Asian longhorned ticks were collected from 7 different mammal species and 3 avian species in North America.

The list of hosts include humans, livestock (sheep, goats, horses, cattle, chickens), companion animals (dogs and cats), and wildlife (elk, white-tailed deer, opossums, raccoons, coyotes, red and gray foxes, striped skunk, eastern cottontail rabbits, groundhogs, goose, and hawk).

In 2019, our Tennessee team collected ALTs from canines, cattle, and deer.

		
Deer and elk	Cows	Dogs
		
Coyotes	Horses	Opossum

According to reports and our Tennessee data, ALTs are collected in forest and grassland environments described as humid environments between 68-86F where animals may rest or nest.

			
Shaded pasture	Woody creek	Wooded areas	Open pasture

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Partial support for this newsletter provided by the USDA  
 NIFA CPPM EIP grant (# 2017-70006-27287) awarded to the  
 University of Tennessee.

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For more information about IPM in Tennessee schools and other facilities, or to view past issues of *Pests and Pesticides in Child-serving Facilities*, please visit <http://schoolipm.utk.edu>

### NATIONAL IPM INFORMATION

eXtension's Pests in the Home  
<https://pestsinthehome.extension.org/>

National School IPM  
[schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/)

IPM in Schools Texas  
<http://schoolipm.tamu.edu/>

IPM Institute of North America  
[www.ipminstitute.org/](http://www.ipminstitute.org/)

School IPM PMSP—all schools IPM by 2020 <https://ipminstitute.org/projects/school-ipm-2020/>

EPA schools  
<http://www2.epa.gov/managing-pests-schools>

For further information about the IPM program at your school or in your county, contact your county Extension Agent or the school IPM Coordinator. For county agent contact information, please visit <https://utextension.tennessee.edu/office-locations-departments-centers/>

## Precautionary Statement

To protect people and the environment, pesticides should be used safely. This is everyone's responsibility, especially the user. Read and follow label directions carefully before you buy, mix, apply, store or dispose of a pesticide. According to laws regulating pesticides, they must be used only as directed by the label.

## Disclaimer

This publication contains pesticide recommendations that are subject to change at any time. The recommendations in this publication are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. The label always takes precedence over the recommendations found in this publication.

Use of trade or brand names in this publication is for clarity and information; it does not imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others that may be of similar, suitable composition, nor does it guarantee or warrant the standard of the product. The author(s), the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture and University of Tennessee Extension assume no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations.

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