

Compost pile shouldn't be a garbage disposal

■ Not all natural material belongs in a compost pile.

Dave Williams, a horticulture specialist with the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service, advises against putting fatty food wastes such as meat or bones into a compost pile. They attract rodents, raccoons, flies and other pests.

Cat and dog manures aren't good com-

post material either. They contain pathogens which can survive the composting process and spread disease to plants where the compost is used, says Williams. Nor is it a good idea to try to compost diseased plant material or plants suffering severe insect infestation either.

Not For Compost Pile—butter, bone, pet manure, cheese, chicken, fish scraps,

lard, mayonnaise, meat, milk, oils, peanut butter, salad dressing, sour cream, vegetable oil.

Can Be Used In Compost Pile—aquatic weeds, bread, coffee grounds, egg shells, evergreen needles, fruit, fruit peels and rinds, garden wastes, grass clippings, leaves, paper, sawdust, straw, sod, tea leaves, vegetables, wood ash, wood chips.

Ways to reduce deer tick habitat

■ Lyme disease is a serious health problem in some areas of the country. It's also the most common tickborne disease in the United States.

Lyme disease is caused by a bacteria spread from one host to another by the deer tick.

Brian Bret, Ph. D., says the control of Lyme disease provides "an ideal opportunity" for an integrated pest management approach. He says control methods must include mechanical, physical and chemical methods aimed at deer ticks and their hosts.

Reduce the risk—Here, as printed in *Hole Notes*, a publication of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendent's Association, are the steps Bret outlines, for making property less desirable tick habitat:

- ✓ Keep lawns mowed.
- ✓ Keep weeds cleared and shrubs trimmed.
- ✓ Clean up leaf piles and organic debris and do not allow it to accumulate.
- ✓ Move wood piles away from the house and play areas.
- ✓ Inspect the house for possible entry sites for rodents.
- ✓ Move bird feeders away from living or play areas.

Tick lifecycle—The deer tick has a two-year lifecycle. It goes through four life stages—egg, larvae, nymph, and adult.

In late spring, early summer the female adult deer ticks drop off their hosts and lay eggs on the ground.

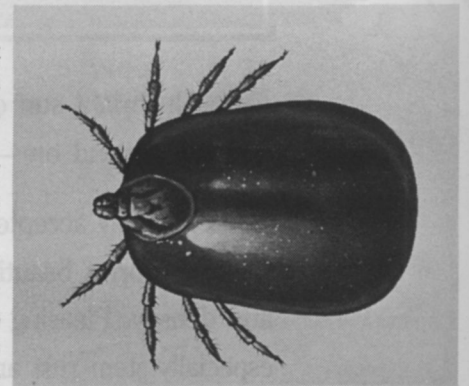
Soon after hatching, the six-legged larvae, mostly in leaf litter and in vegetation on the ground, find a host, often a white-footed mouse. The larvae pick up the Lyme disease spirochete from infected hosts, usually mice.

The larvae feed two or three days on the host, then drop off on the ground where it overwinters. The next spring, it molts into an eight-legged nymph.

By early or midsummer, the population of the nymphs peak. They climb grasses and weeds. This is when they're most likely to attach themselves to humans or pets. They feed on the host for a couple of days before dropping to the ground. By early fall, nymphs are molting into adults.

Adult ticks climb shrubs, weeds and tall grasses and attach themselves to humans, dogs, deer, etc. Again, they gorge themselves for a few days. And, again, they drop off and overwinter, only to start the cycle again in the spring by laying eggs.

The Lyme disease bacteria can be spread by either the deer tick nymph or adult.



The female tick engorges with blood to ensure the subsequent laying of eggs. Eggs are laid in the spring.

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