

# Break out the bug spray, v'all



## THE TROUBLE WITH TICKS

**Ticks are not insects.** They are actually arachnids and are closely related to mites, spiders and scorpions.

**Ticks don't burrow under the skin.** In order to feed, they actually bite.

**Only adult female ticks** feed off the blood of their host.

PHOTOS BY JESSICA NELMS | THE JOURNAL

Families need to plan on stocking up on bug spray this summer. Due to a mild winter, pests are slated to attack humans, pets and produce all summer long.

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THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — It's bug season and chances are, if you venture outside, you're going to go through a lot of bug spray this summer.

Due to a mild winter, the number of mosquitoes, fleas, ticks and other pests are slated to cause havoc.

The South Carolina Forestry Commission is urging folks to take an extra amount of caution, especially when it comes to ticks.

It added that due to weather patterns and food source fluctuations, ticks might be hungrier than usual.

There are four species of ticks abundant in the Palmetto State. They are the American Dog tick, Lone Star tick, Blacklegged or "Deer" tick and the Brown Dog tick.

According to the SCFC, each of these species is capable of transmitting diseases to animals (including humans) while feeding.

When it comes to mosquitoes, Bob Bellinger at Clemson University said they are already causing serious damage around the coast.

"Obviously, a lot of the insects die off in the colder weather, but we aren't seeing that this year," Bellinger said. "Instead, they've thrived through the last few months, causing much higher numbers of different insects and at much earlier times in the year."

Lonnie Surget, Clemson entomologist, said there are ways to avoid the pesky creatures and more so, it's important to stick to what he calls, "an applying routine."

"Basically, every time you step outside to either work or enjoy some leisure time, it's crucial to take some repellent steps," Surget said.

"And this year especially. Otherwise, you can bet you'll be tending to various bites and an annoying night of trying to sleep through the itch. Stay away from wet, grassy areas or standing water, avoid using fragrant or scented personal products, wear light colored long

sleeve shirts and pants, wear a hat and a bandanna on your head and neck, keep cool because bugs are attracted to sweat, use traditional bug repellent. Must contain DEET as the active ingredient against bugs. Use this sparingly. Try 'Avon Skin So Soft,' work with head nets. Use garlic — it will secrete through your pores as does zinc or vitamin

B. And finally, try using citrus, coconut soap and coconut oil, as they all repel mosquitoes and other bugs."

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## FLUA FACTS

**Fleas are some of the best jumpers** of all known animals. They can jump around 200 times their own body length.

**Only about 5 percent of the flea population** is mature adults. The other 95 percent are in the egg, larva, or pupa stage of development.

**A female flea sucks up to 30 times her weight in blood every day.**



Alex Waring applies bug spray before working outside for a local landscaping company. Experts agree this summer that the number of ticks, fleas and mosquitoes will reach record highs.