

Newsletter



Hello NCVMA Industry Partners!

I hope this newsletter finds everyone and their families well and safe. As we approach the one year mark of our introduction to COVID and the new world we're learning to live and work in, our industry proved not only essential but resilient this past year. Vegetation Management continues to be key to safety and functionality and we are proud of our members for everything you do to ensure such.

Last year the board met quarterly, virtually, and kept the day-to-day activities of the association moving forward. While we were not able to hold our annual field day, we did hold our annual meeting virtually in December. We hope everyone who was able to attend learned from the outstanding line up of speakers and found the time to be of value. With over 150 registered participants and 19 sponsors, the meeting was well attended and supported. During the meeting we also continued our tradition of support for the Jimmy V Foundation for Cancer Research and I am proud to share that **YOU** raised over \$5,500 for the foundation!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Looking to this year, we too are optimistic that things will continue to open up and provide opportunities for us to all gather together again. To that note, the board is moving forward with our annual meeting in December face to face. Our dates are confirmed for December 8th and 9th at the Embassy Suites in Cary. As planning is already underway, we will share our agenda and further details in the coming months so be sure to save the dates.

Once again, thank you for everything you do for the industry and your continued support of the NCVMA. If there is anything the board can do for you let us know. We can't wait to see you in December!

Dorie Berry
NCVMA President '20-'21



(Full board member list and contact information is available online at <http://www.ncveg.com> > About > Board Members.)



Newsletter



"Don't Give Up . . . Don't Ever Give Up!"

NCVMA members did it again, your generosity, love and support helped raise **\$5,505** for cancer research. One hundred percent of the funds that are donated to the Jimmy V Foundation goes to cancer research.

The NCVMA Board of Directors thanks each of you who generously donated auction items, time and your finances in an effort to stamp out childhood cancer. A special shoutout to those who worked on coordinating the efforts of the NCVMA members in continuing to give back to our community. Again, thank you all for caring and blessing others through your donations.

NCVMA Scholarship Undergraduate Student Award

Shelby Williford - \$3070
Senior, Plant & Soil Science

Derek C. Smith NCVMA Graduate Scholarship Award

Andrew C. Howell
\$1,500
Crop Science PHD

Save The Date!

2021 NCVMA
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT
Symposium

December 8-9, 2021

Embassy Suites
201 Harrison Oaks Blvd.
Cary, NC 27513

<http://www.ncveg.com>



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Executive Director

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The VIP Column
(Vegetation Mgt. Information for the Professional)

Ticks and Staying Safer in NC

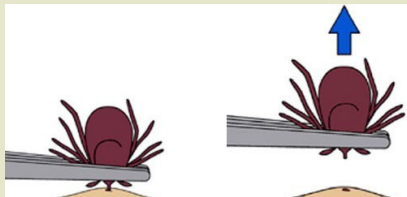
Tick Removal

If you find a tick attached to your skin, there's no need to panic—the key is to remove the tick as soon as possible. There are several tick removal devices on the market, but a plain set of fine-tipped tweezers work very well.

How to remove a tick

1. Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
2. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick; this can cause the mouth-parts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouth-parts with tweezers. If you are unable to remove the mouth easily with clean tweezers, leave it alone and let the skin heal.
3. After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.

Never crush a tick with your fingers. Dispose of a live tick by putting it in alcohol, placing it in a sealed bag/container, wrapping it tightly in tape, or flushing it down the toilet.



Follow-up

If you develop a rash or fever within several weeks of removing a tick, see your doctor. Be sure to tell the doctor about your recent tick bite, when the bite occurred, and where you most likely acquired the tick.




Photo provided By:

Marcia E. Herman-Giddens, PA, DrPH

Tick-borne Infections Council of NC, Inc

UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health


Please visit www.tic-nc.org for more information.



PREVENT TICK BITES!

- WEAR REPELLENT
- CHECK FOR TICKS DAILY
- SHOWER SOON AFTER BEING OUTDOORS
- CALL YOUR DOCTOR IF YOU GET A FEVER OR RASH

For more information: www.cdc.gov/ticks



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

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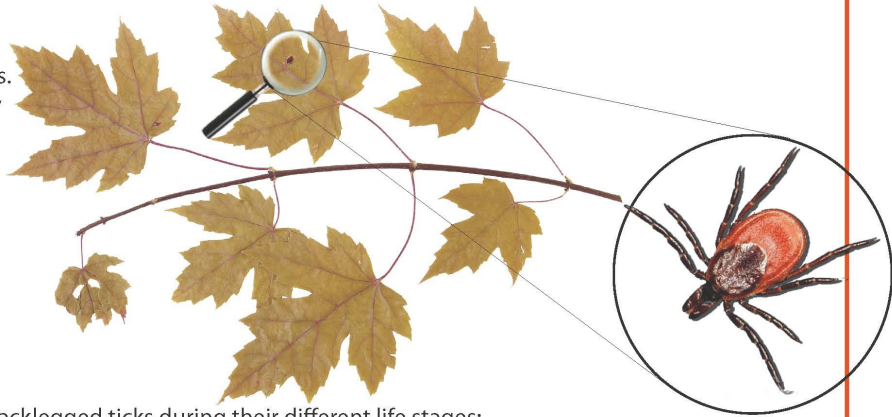


Don't Let a Tick Make You Sick!



What is a tick?

Ticks are related to spiders. They have 8 legs. But they don't spin webs and they don't eat insects. All ticks are small, but blacklegged ticks (sometimes called deer ticks) are **very** small. This is a blacklegged tick close-up:



This is the actual size of blacklegged ticks during their different life stages:



They are so tiny, it's easy to mistake them for freckles or dirt. Sometimes they're hard to see at all! Would it be hard to find these on a pet?



Where do ticks live?

Ticks live in places where there is a lot of tall grass, shrubs, and leaves.

Ticks wait for an animal (like a deer, a mouse, or a dog) or a person to walk by. Then they grab on to the animal or human.

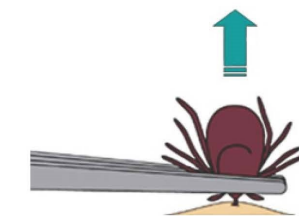
How do ticks bite us?

After climbing on a person or animal, ticks find a good place to attach themselves. They might hide in your hair, or behind the knee, even in your underwear!

Then, the ticks bite into a person or animal's skin and start drinking their blood. Tick bites don't usually hurt, so you may not even notice it. The tick can stay attached for a few days. When it is full, it will fall off.

What if I find a tick on me?

If you find a tick on your body, tell your parents or a teacher. They can use tweezers to pull it off. Then they should wash the bite with soap and water or disinfectant.



An adult should use narrow tweezers to pull the tick straight up and out.

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Division of Vector-Borne Diseases | Bacterial Diseases Branch



CS218311A



ADAPTING ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT DURING A PANDEMIC

Managing vegetation on roadsides is critical to increased safety. The pandemic is challenging roadside managers to maintain safety while find new ways to improve efficiency and lower costs.

The most common form of vegetation management is mowing. Mowing or weed eating is time consuming, very expensive and only controls weeds and grass height for several weeks. Mowing in the spring can be very harmful to nesting mammals, birds and pollinators.

Many state and county departments of transportation are increasingly using PLANT GROWTH REGULATOR (PGR) programs to solve their problems. PGR programs combined with other broadleaf weed control products reduce the need for mowing for up to 60 to 90 days in both cool season and warm season grasses. PLATEAU[®] herbicide is the foundation of any PGR program by providing both grass height growth regulation and seed-head suppression. There is a long history of successful PGR programs beginning in the early 2000's.

The key to the success of plant growth regular programs is the reduction in mowing. In the eastern U.S., mowing can be reduced from four times to once in cool season grasses and from eight to three times in warm season grasses. Since PLATEAU slows grass growth and stops seedhead development within 24 hours, it is not necessary to mow prior to application. Cost reductions are commonly 50% to 70%. Efficiency is also improved by a 50% to 70% reduction in man hours to complete the work. Mowing personnel are free for other maintenance tasks and the wear on equipment is reduced. PGR applications in the late spring followed by mowing later in the summer is most effective. Safety is improved by reducing the number of trips on the roadside.

Innovative managers are expanding PGR programs to further reduce costs and improve efficiency. Secondary highways are prime for PGR applications due to mowing difficulty and safety concerns. Where erosion is a concern along guardrails and cable barriers, PGR programs keep the grass in place and are replacing bare-ground applications. PLATEAU also can be utilized for establishment and maintenance of pollinator and native grass plantings.

It is possible to improve safety, reduce costs and improve efficiency by utilizing plant growth regulator programs with PLATEAU herbicide.

For more information on the many benefits of Plant Growth Regulator Programs and BASF Professional Vegetation Management products visit www.bettervm.basf.us

Respectfully Submitted

Jim Bean

3 oz. Plateau + 0.3 oz. Escort XP + 7 oz. Milestone – 1 month after application on Fescue

Untreated

Treated



North Carolina

Department of Transportation

Presented by: Derek Smith

Roadside Vegetation Asset Management Engineer
North Carolina Department of Transportation



BED OF ROADSIDE SUNFLOWERS



SULFUR COSMOS NEAR CHARLOTTE

WILDFLOWERS

This year the North Carolina Department celebrates the 36th anniversary of the NC Wildflower Program. What started out a 12 experimental acres has grown to become the Nations largest planted wildflower program with approximately 1,500 acres under management. Over the years, we have developed a strong research initiative with NC State University to learn how to grow wildflowers using the latest weed control technologies.

During 2020, we mapped the location of each of our wildflower beds, doubled our efforts to obtain current soil analysis and have launched the 2021 program focused on long-term perennial bed management. In addition, beginning in the early summer, annuals such as sulfur cosmos and ‘black oil’ sunflower seed (aka: Peredovik seed) will be blooming along our interstate and primary routes. Peredovik sunflower seed is much cheaper than hybrid seed, so we can sow more acreage for the same cost. The resulting flowers will be different heights and the flowers themselves will also be different sizes. Once seeded in early April, blooms should be expected in about 70 days provided sufficient rain events occur. Under ideal conditions, one should expect sunflowers to be in bloom for about 3 weeks. At that time, we will allow the flowers to develop seed and once the seed is mature, we will mow the area. This action will scatter the seed and lightly cover the seed. This action will allow a second crop to germinate and flower in late September or early October. Sunflowers are a fantastic source of nectar and pollen for pollinator species such as bees, wasps and butterflies.

Through a cooperative effort with BASF, who grew the plant material, NCDOT will be installing approximately 450 three-inch plugs of milkweed in three locations: a Martin County wetland mitigation site, and on the grounds of both the Madison and Wilkes County Welcome Centers. This effort continues NCDOT’s efforts to provide milkweed for monarch butterflies.



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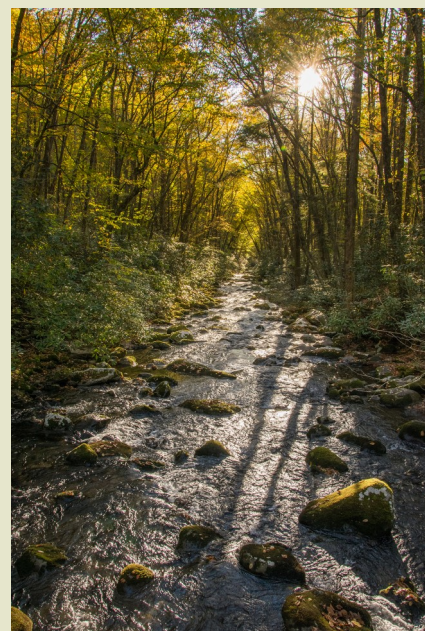
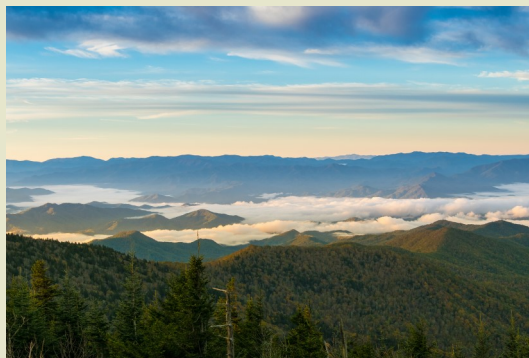
NC SCENIC BYWAYS

Newfound Gap Road Byway was recently designated as an All-American Road by the U.S. Department of Transportation in February. The byway runs roughly 31 miles, as U.S. 441, through Great Smoky Mountain National Park and connects Cherokee, NC with Gatlinburg, TN. The NC section of the route is 19 miles in length. Members of the National Park Service developed an application for the prestigious designation in June 2020 in conjunction with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the Tennessee Department of Transportation. To attain All-American designation, a route must be nationally significant and possess at least two of the six possible intrinsic qualities (Scenic, Historic, Cultural, Recreational, Archeological, and Natural). Although the byway possessed many of the qualifiable attributes, the NPS chose to focus on the Scenic and Historical aspect of the corridor.

Today, North Carolina has 5 nationally designated scenic byways and Tennessee has 10. Newfound Gap Road joins the Blue Ridge Parkway as the only other All-American Road in North Carolina.

The National Scenic Byways Program, established by Congress in 1991 and administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), was created to preserve, and protect the nation's scenic byways and, at the same time, promote tourism and economic development. Often referred to as "the roads less traveled," these byways allow travelers separate themselves from the hustle and bustle of the interstates and highways and allows them to experience states in a whole new way.

More information about the National Scenic Byway Program can be found at <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/byways/>.



LITTER MANAGEMENT

Litter management along North Carolina's roadsides is a seemingly never-ending issue and one that is also very expensive. North Carolina manages litter through initiatives like: Adopt-A-Highway, Sponsor-A-Highway, and semiannual Litter Sweep Programs. In addition to state forces, we have several contracts with litter removal components built in to their agreements.

Over the past 3 years, our Department has spent over \$51 million tax-dollars removing litter from the rights of way. That equates to 23,778,825 pounds or nearly 12,000 tons of removed litter. 2019 was our most successful year regarding litter removal. We were funded to the level that allowed us to remove over 10.5 million pounds of litter at a cost of \$21,665,454. We had a game plan and the plan was working.

Then COVID struck. Initially, no one knew what to expect. People stayed at home based upon advice from health care professionals. As a result, they did not drive, purchase gasoline or buy vehicles. NCDOT's maintenance budget, which is funded in part by the tax revenue received from these two revenue streams, took a major hit. In fact, realized revenue fell to an historically unprecedented level. You may recall reading about it in the news. Our Department realigned its spending plan based upon this situation and as a result most of its maintenance programs were negatively impacted.

Because of COVID, many of our Adopt-A-Highway, Sponsor-A-Highway and contract-services teams did not pick up litter after April 2020. To err on the side of caution, our Department also decided to cancel the Fall Litter Sweep. All of these issues resulted in the amount of litter currently seen along North Carolina roadsides.



We are just beginning to recover from these impacts. We are, again, seeing litter crews and volunteers at work, but it's a slow and daunting task. Additionally, within the last two weeks, because of the hard work of our financial professionals, it has been approved to reallocate funds within the maintenance/operations budget to address various issues includes litter removal. Since January 2021, we have removed over 2 million pounds of litter from the roadsides.

Meanwhile, creative individuals including Joey Hopkins, Division 5 Engineer, were working to develop a partnership with local business leaders to see what corporate America can do to address the problems associated with litter. The process is still in its infancy but it is a new approach worth pursuing. We also have one television station willing to air - for free - a public service announcement once it is created. I hope you can agree that these are all positive steps.

Litter has, by default, become a "DOT problem" because it is deposited along our roadsides. In reality, it is up to all of us to do our part to discourage littering and to educate the public about this issue. Enforcement remains one of the only ways to cite those that litter. Locally, sheriffs can have a big impact with enforcement.

On March 25, 2021, NCDOT announced our anti-litter partnership with Luke Combs and released the two PSA's he recorded for NCDOT via our social media platforms. Luke's team will also retweet our posts. We are also launching a litter PSA resource page.



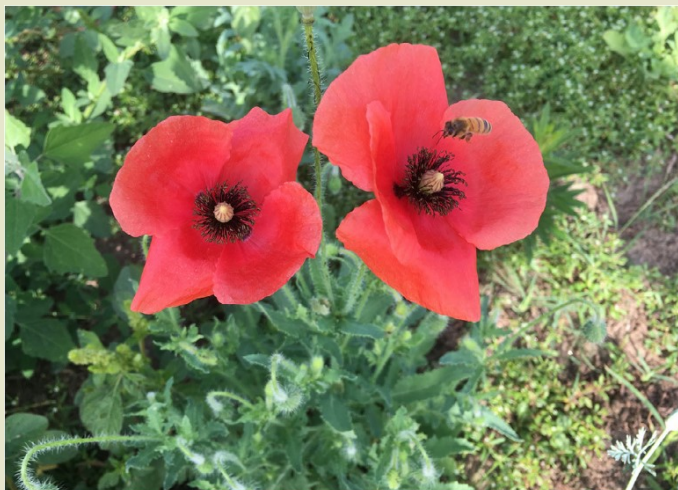
got to be
NC
AG POLLINATORS



[NCDA&CS helping create habitat for pollinators](#)



Sunflower & Buckwheat at the Mountain Research Station in Waynesville also serves as a pollinator habitat area.



The bees and butterflies have found the pollinator plots at the Upper Mountain Research Station in Laurel Springs.



The Central Crops Research Station in Clayton planted wildflowers near the peach orchard to attract more pollinators.

Pollinators are in trouble. Habitat loss, disease and environmental changes have contributed to the decline of pollinators, according to [USDA-NRCS](#). The best way to reverse this is a multi-step approach to support pollinators through expanding and protecting habitats on the farm and protecting pollinators.

Listen as Commissioner Troxler talks with the Southern Farm Network about the importance of ag pollinators:



Click Picture to Watch Video

"I came to the realization that we in North Carolina needed to do what we could do to ensure that we had adequate pollinators for our crops." - Steve Troxler, commissioner of agriculture.
www.ncagr.gov/pollinators



Newsletter



[NC Pesticide Safety Education Program Website](#)

Training and Testing

NC State Extension conducts two-day pesticide schools to prepare prospective applicators for the private and commercial applicator certification exams. To enroll in a pesticide school (fees apply), visit the [NC Pesticide Safety Education Program website](#) (see the contact information below). Attendance at a pesticide school is not required for certification. Anyone who wants to be certified as a pesticide applicator **must** take the appropriate exam(s). The certification exams are developed, administered, and graded by the Structural Pest Control & Pesticides Division of the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS). To register for an exam only, call the NCDA&CS (see the contact information below). Exam dates and locations are listed on the [Pesticide Safety Education Program](#) and the NCDA&CS websites.

All exams, except for the Private Soil Fumigation exam, are closed-book and consist of multiple-choice questions. An uncirculated Soil Fumigation manual is provided for that exam. Exam questions come from study manuals that may be purchased from the Pesticide Safety Education Program at NC State University. Order the study materials at least three weeks before taking an exam to allow adequate time to read and review the information. Some exams and training manuals are available in Spanish. Fees apply to all exams.

Bring a No. 2 pencil, calculator (smart phones are prohibited), and valid government-issued photo ID to the exam site. Payment can be made by cash, check (payable to NCDA&CS) or money order at the exam site. Exam results will be mailed by NCDA&CS within one to two weeks. Results are also available online through the NCDA&CS website, generally within 7 to 10 business days. If necessary, an exam may be taken three times in one calendar year.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT OPTIONS @ NCDA&CS

Here is the link:

<http://www.ncagr.gov/SPCAP/pesticides/RECRECRE.DRE.HTM>

Submitted By:

Dwight E. Seal

Western District Manager

*North Carolina Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services*

*Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division
336-401-7154 new cell 919-733-3556 office*

NC Pesticide Safety Education Program Contact Information

For information on pesticide training manuals and schools:

[NC Pesticide Safety Education Program](#)
Department of Horticultural Science
North Carolina State University
Campus Box 7609, Raleigh, NC 27695-7609
919.515.3113

For information on pesticide laws, certification exams, and licensing:

North Carolina Department of Agriculture
& Consumer Services (NCDA&CS)
[Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division,
Pesticide Section](#)
1090 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-
1090
919.733.3556

*Published in collaboration with the Structural Pest
Control and Pesticides Division of the NCDA&CS.*



Upcoming Events

ISA Webinar

[Register Here](#)

ISA Arborist Certification

ISA Certification is a voluntary program that tests and certifies your achievement of a professional level of knowledge and skill in the field of arboriculture. When you become an ISA Certified Arborist, you are recognized by your peers and the public as a tree care professional who has attained a generally-accepted level of knowledge in areas such as tree biology, diagnosis, maintenance practices, safety, and other subject and practice areas within the tree care profession as identified through periodic job task analyses.

Join us for our 3-day Prep Course for the ISA Certified Arborist exam. This workshop will take place entirely online, and offers an opportunity for members of the tree care industry to prepare for the CA exam. Using the ISA CA Study Guide as a reference, our expert speakers will be covering a variety of tree care topics that will be covered on the exam. Whether you choose to take the ISA Certified Arborist Exam on May 6th, or just attend the workshop as a refresher, your involvement will keep your professional development on the fast track.

NOTE: If you choose to take the Certified Arborist exam, you MUST register separately with ISA. Exam registration deadline is **April 20th**. For more information on exam registration, please visit: <https://www.isa-arbor.com/Credentials/Exam-Information>

Thursday, May 6, 2021

ISA Certified Arborist Qualification Exam
Campbell Lodge in Durant Nature Preserve
3237 Spottswood Street
Raleigh, NC 27615

Education Credits Will Be Available

ISA: 9.75 total CEUs

SAF

NC Pesticide

NC Landscape Contractor

**CAROLINA CANOPY
WEBINAR SERIES
NC Urban Forest Council**

[NCUFC.ORG Events](https://www.ncufc.org)

[LEGACY TREE FUND](#)

TREES AND UTILITIES

[Trees and Utilities](#)

[\(ncufc.org\)](https://www.ncufc.org)

[Trees & Utilities Guide.](#)



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Newsletter



NCVMA
Sustaining Members
2020



Plank Road Forestry, LLC



TREE SERVICE



Newsletter

