

Winter Tick Life Cycle

Late Summer/Early Fall

The eggs hatch and larvae climb vegetation, "questing" for an organism to be their host.

Moose are most active during this period of time because it is mating season. This increases the moose's chance of walking past a cluster of questing winter ticks.

Fall/Winter

One tick can bring thousands of others using their interlocking limbs.

Then, the thousands of ticks feed on the moose for all three developmental stages (**Phase 1:** Larva, October - December; **Phase 2:** Nymph, January - February; **Phase 3:** Adult, Engorged females are the size of a small grape, February - April), consistently eroding the health of the moose for months.

Early Spring

Female winter ticks drop off their host to seek leaf litter.

Late Spring/Early Summer

They lay up to 4,000 eggs.