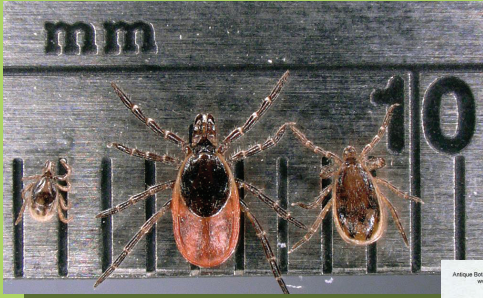


Invasion Detective



Instructions: These invasive species are studied by researchers in the Colautti Lab at Queen's University, and they can all be found in the Kingston region. Take your parents to Lamoine Point, Little Cataraqui Creek, or your neighbourhood woodlands and marshes to see if you can find them.



Scientific name: *Ixodes scapularis*

Common name: deer tick or blacklegged tick

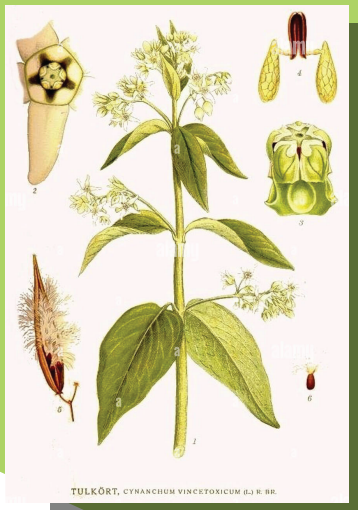
Background: These ticks are native to the United States, but spreading north into Canada. They are the main source of Lyme disease, which is caused by a small corkscrew-shaped bacteria called *Borrelia burgdorferi*. Ticks may crawl on you for hours before finding a feeding spot, and they stay attached to feed slowly over several days!



Scientific name: *Alliaria petiolata*

Common name: garlic mustard

Background: This plant lives in wooded areas. It's easiest to spot in the early spring when it is one of the first green plants to show up after the snow has melted. This early emergence gives the species an advantage over native plants like our famous Ontario *Trillium* flowers. The name 'garlic mustard' refers to the smell and taste it produces by a class of chemicals called glucosinolates. These are the same chemicals that give flavour to related species like Brussel sprouts, radish, cabbage and wasabi. These are all plants in the same family, called **Brassicaceae**. These deter grazing from deer and rodents, giving the species another advantage over native herbs.



Scientific name: *Vincetoxicum rossicum*

Common name: dog-strangling vine

Background: Common names are funny sometimes. This plant is not a vine, and it doesn't strangle dogs. But it can be a problematic invader in the forest. It emerges later than garlic mustard, but it can grow up to a meter or more. If you look carefully at the flowers or seeds, you may notice a similarity to our native milkweed plants, which are food for monarch caterpillars and butterflies. The seeds have silky strands to help the seeds disperse, just like milkweed. These characteristics are shared because these species are cousins from the same plant family: **Asclepiadaceae**.



Scientific name: *Lythrum salicaria*

Common name: purple loosestrife

Background: Purple loosestrife lives in wetlands and roadside ditches. It's easiest to spot in the summer when it produces long spikes of colourful purple flowers. This species is a celebrity in the invasive plant world, sometimes called 'the purple menace'. Several beetles were introduced in the 1990s to try to limit the spread and impact of purple loosestrife. This species is in the family **Lythraceae**, which include a native species *Decodon verticillatus*, which can be distinguished by having much longer branches that often form arches that curve back down to the water to establish new roots.



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