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## **ANTS**

- Common pest species:
  - Odorous house ants
  - Argentine ants
  - Red imported fire ants
  - Carpenter ants

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## **ANT COLONY FORMATION**

- Many produce winged adults (“swarmers”)
- Some reproduce by “budding” - part of the colony splits off and forms a separate colony
- Some colonies have one queen; others have multiple queens

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## **FOOD SOURCES FOR ANTS**

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### **FORAGING ACTIVITY - FOOD**

- Garbage cans or discarded food on ground
- Seeds
- Dead insects

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### **FORAGING ACTIVITY - WATER**

- Exterior water spigots
- Air conditioner condensate lines
- Sinks, bathtubs
- Dishwasher/clothes washer
- Refrigerator

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### **ENTRY POINTS TO STRUCTURES**

- Utility lines
- Downspouts
- Foundation walls/vents

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**Ant control starts with finding the source**

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### **NESTING SITES - INDOORS**

- Crawlspace - in soil or under insulation
- Wall voids (incl. window casings)
- Attics
- Structural wood
- Indoor planters

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- Under logs, stones
- In/under trees
- Near shrubs
- Under slabs (patios), near foundation
- Under mulch and compost piles

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### **ANT CHEMICAL CONTROL**

- Baits
  - Outdoors - granular baits (*Amdro*); liquid (*Max-attract*)
  - Indoors - stations, gels or liquids (*Combat, Terro*)

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### **ANT CONTROL - NON-CHEMICAL**

- Sanitation - eliminate discarded food items
- Eliminate moisture problems around home

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### **Fire Ant Biology**

- They are most active in the morning and when air temperatures are between 65°F to 95°F
- Small mounds show up in the late fall in October-November.

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### **Identifying Fire Ants**

- Nests are typically dome-shaped (depending on the soil); no central opening

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### **Identifying Fire Ants**

1. If the ants are aggressive, at least 3 mm long, and rapidly run

up any object placed into their nest, they are probably fire ants.

2. If they try to bite and sting the object, then it is a good bet they are fire ants.

30  **Fire Ants Indoors**

- Look for soil push out near expansion joints, utilities (water lines, electrical outlets, etc.)

31  **Fire Ants & Human Health**

- Venom contains alkaloids that cause a localized reaction with a characteristic pustule-like blister.
- Protein in venom similar to bees and wasps; causes anaphylaxis in sensitive individuals

32  **FIRE ANT CONTROL**

Choice of control methods depends on number and location of mounds

33  **Fire Ant Mound Treatments**

- Boiling water – somewhat effective but potentially hazardous to the person handling the water

Insecticides: e.g., ACEPHATE (Orthene), BIFENTHRIN (Ortho)

- Liquid treatments:
  - Spring/Fall - treat mid-day
  - Summer - treat early morning or in evening
  - Ants and brood are closer to mound surface at those times

34  **Fire Ant Control – Broadcast Application**




Granular insecticides - Broadcast application –MUST BE WATERED IN

- FIPRONIL (Over N Out)
- BIFENTHRIN (Ortho Fire Ant Killer)

Dusts – applied directly to mounds

- Orthene

DO NOT DISTURB MOUND

- 35  **Fire Ant Baits**  
Growth Regulators:  
• METHOPRENE - Prevent brood from maturing (Amdro Fire Strike Mound Treatment)  
Baits:  
• INDOXACARB (Spectracide Fire Ant Killer)  
• HYDRAMETHYLNON (Amdro)
- 36  **Successful Baiting of Fire Ants**  
• Use fresh bait only  
– Check date of manufacture  
– When in doubt, test some at one mound  
• Apply when rain is not expected  
• Apply around (not on) mounds  
– When ants are active  
– Air temp. is 70° - 95° F
- 37  **Fire Ants and “High-Risk” Areas**  
• Treat (drench) mounds that pose an imminent stinging threat to students/residents and staff ASAP  
• Bait mounds that do not pose an imminent risk  
• Inspect mound 2-3 days later and again in about 2-3 weeks for signs of activity  
• Watch for new mounds