ANTS

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

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

FOOD SOURCES FOR ANTS

FORAGING ACTIVITY - FOOD

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

FORAGING ACTIVITY - WATER

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

ENTRY POINTS TO STRUCTURES

- Utility lines
- Downspouts
- Foundation walls/vents

Ant control starts with finding the source

NESTING SITES - INDOORS
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– Crawlspace - in soil or under insulation
– Wall voids (incl. window casings)
– Attics
– Structural wood
– Indoor planters
– Under logs, stones
– In/under trees
– Near shrubs
– Under slabs (patios), near foundation
– Under mulch and compost piles

ANT CHEMICAL CONTROL
• Baits
  – Outdoors - granular baits (Amdro); liquid (Max-attract)
  – Indoors - stations, gels or liquids (Combat, Terro)

ANT CONTROL - NON-CHEMICAL
• Sanitation - eliminate discarded food items
• Eliminate moisture problems around home

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.

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

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.

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

**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

**FIRE ANT CONTROL**
Choice of control methods depends on number and location of mounds

**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

**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
**Fire Ant Baits**

Growth Regulators:
• METHOPRENE - Prevent brood from maturing (Amdro Fire Strike Mound Treatment)

Baits:
• INDOXACARB (Spectracide Fire Ant Killer)
• HYDRAMETHYLNON (Amdro)

**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

**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