



ECO-FRIENDLY GUIDE TO FIRE ANTS



Enlarged photo of fire ants and winged female

description

Fire ant colonies contain the queen(s), winged males and females, and wingless, sterile female workers and brood who feed and protect the queen.

infestation

Fire ants create mounds up to 18" tall in any type of soil. They prefer open sunny areas such as lawns, pastures, parks and disturbed areas, often nest under side walks, slabs or at the base of trees.

problems

Fire ants don't injure turfgrass but mounds become unsightly; ants are aggressive and cause painful stings that are easily infected. They can invade electrical equipment by chewing insulation and cause short circuits.



Fire Ant Mound

Least Toxic Solutions

*Properly identify as fire ants --many other species occur in Texas and some are their natural predators; for details visit <http://fireant.tamu.edu>

*Carefully pour a large pot (about 3 gallons) of boiling water on each mound. This will kill a mound about 60% of the time (Don not pour on or near plants or roots)

*Nematodes(*Steinerenema carpocapsae*) are small round worms that attack fire ant larvae, as well as grubs and other soil dwelling larvae. The work best when applies to moist soil at dusk.

*RONS AUNT BE GONE - Orange oil, compost tea, molasses and DE. 1 cup per gallon of water. Pour on each mountain of ants.

*For more than 5 mounds per 1/4 acre, broadcast ant BAIT products once or twice a year, mid April -September (fall application reduces spring infestation)

*In hot weather apply in evening when temperatures are cooler.

*Use fresh bait - opened containers may last only a few months

*Avoid application before rain (at least 8 hours)

*DO NOT USE GAS OR DIESEL FUEL TO TREAT

Neighborhood Ant-Out!! Organize your neighbors to treat fire ants at the same time - you share the cost of the bait and control the pests rather than driving them from yard to yard.

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