

Argentine Ant (*Linepithema humile*) Profile



Pest Status

- One of the world's worst invasive species.
- First introduced into Australia in 1939
- Aggressive and territorial, they exclude, compete, and attack local ant species (also lizards, bird eggs and newly hatched chicks).
- Agricultural pest (tend sap-sucking insects).
- Hitches rides in freight, potted plants, rubbish, vehicles and other such goods.

Description

- 2–3 mm long, uniform honey-brown colour.
- Foraging ants move in defined continuous trails.
- The ants can't sting but some people react to their bite.
- A slight greasy odour.
- Frequently associated with areas of human settlement.
- Invaded native habitats including scrub, mangroves, coastal forest and the edges of native forest.

All products in the FMC general pest range carry an ant registration. Notably Biflex[®] Mikron and Astro[®] also have HACCP approval while along with Biflex[®] Ultra, Biflex[®] Aqua and Fury[®] are registered for internal use. Externally Brigade[®] Granular is a popular option around perimeters, paved and lawn areas and Dragnet[®] Dust offers an excellent option for roof voids and wall cavities.

Nesting

- Nest in exposed soil or under logs, retaining walls, Often moves indoors.
- Can form super-colonies, contains multiple queens (polygynous).

Feeding

- Prefers sweet foods but will eat almost anything (meat, oils, other insects, seeds and fruits).

Treatment (IPM approach):

- Bait foraging trails.
- Direct nest application (liquid and/or granules).
- Building perimeter (liquid) to prevent ingress.
- Internal C&C to harbourages.
- Hygiene & exclusion.

For further information please contact your local FMC representative or visit fmcaustralasia.com.au