

Ginger Ant (*Solenopsis geminata*) Profile



Pest Status

- Also known as the tropical fire ant.
- First introduced into the NT in 1915 (origin: South America).
- Aggressive and territorial, they will exclude, out compete, and attack local ant species (also lizards, bird eggs and newly hatched turtles).
- People allergic to wasps, ants or bees could suffer anaphylactic shock.
- Agricultural pest (tend sap-sucking insects).
- Has been eradicated from Brisbane and Perth.

Description

- Small (1-5mm), shiny brown/orange/red body.
- Two-sized workers, major & minor (dimorphic).
- Major workers have a disproportionately large head.
- Very painful sting (multiple stings per ant).

Nesting

- In ground nest. Prefers disturbed soil in mostly sunny locations.
- Nest slightly raised with loose soil and multiple entrance holes.
- Unusual biology: nest can either be single queen (monogynous) or multi queen (polygynous). Polygynous colonies spread by budding, and the monogynous via nuptial flight (up to 2km from the original nest).

Feeding

- It is omnivorous, eating anything from seeds to small mammals and birds.

Treatment (IPM approach):

- Bait foraging trails & around nest.
- Direct nest application (liquid and/or granules).

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.

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