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## Past Issues

## Online Training Available:

<https://eces.ifas.ufl.edu/>

## Pest Management in and Around Structures:

<http://www.eXtension.org/>

## Contact Us:

<http://schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/>

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## Florida School IPM Focus- Caribbean Crazy Ant is no joke!

If you are in the middle of the FCATs or preparing for them and are in an area of the State where Caribbean crazy ants thrive, please read this issue. In schools, "pests" can be broadly defined as anything that distracts students from learning. The Caribbean crazy ant (*Nylanderia pubens*) can become a distraction to students if they invade buildings because they can produce overwhelming infestations that make the ground appear to move. Their erratic movement can be much more mesmerizing than sitting through the FCAT.

This ant is also known as the brown or hairy crazy ant based on its appearance. More often than not, management of this ant will require the services of a professional pest control company. Whether you decide on using the services of a pest control company or do pest control in-house, be sure to check out our [Caribbean crazy ant page](#) for information and updates on this invasive pest. Some of the information on our Caribbean crazy ant web pages are included in this edition of Florida School IPM News.

## Know the facts: Management



- 100% eradication of this ant is not probable in areas where the ant is established; however, population suppression is possible.
- Expect the ants to reinvade.
- There is a legal limit as to how often products can be used, so please do not ask your pest control operator to do "extra" treatments.
- Multiple control tactics will be required, including baiting grounds and perimeter treatments of buildings. Product selection is critical to success. Some products are better at excluding ants from structures.

## Tips for dealing with Caribbean crazy ants in schools

Make sure you have a correct identification for this ant.

Be a good neighbor and eliminate food, water and shelter that encourages colony growth by

- **De-cluttering and**
- **Establishing regular trash removal**

If you have taken pest control measures, do not hose the ants off the pavement area. You will wash away your treatment. Use a blower instead.

As with all pests in schools: non-professionals should be careful about “self-treating” since it may counteract what the pest control professional has done. For example, if you spray an insecticide over a bait you will render the bait ineffective.

Be assured that the Caribbean crazy ant does not sting, transmit disease or make unsightly mounds in landscape.

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## Door hangers for residential education



You may want to inform neighbors around your school that the Caribbean crazy ant is in your area and causing problems. This two sided doorhanger was designed to get information to homeowners. You can print these **on a computer and fold them** or have them **professionally printed** depending on your distribution needs. There is also a place at the bottom of the door hanger to add your school or business name and logo.

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## News!

We hope you will submit news items and would be happy to help you write a story if you have an idea but don't have the time to write up the information. This newsletter will be published as content arrives, please keep the information flowing! Please send news items to **Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman**.

Visit our website for back issues of **Florida School IPM News**.