

Tawny crazy ants and brood, highly magnified

Photo by USDA-ARS, CMAVE

TAWNY CRAZY ANT

The tawny crazy ant (*Nylanderia fulva*) can produce overwhelming infestations. It does not sting, transmit disease, or make unsightly mounds in the landscape. You can spot an infestation because it may look like the ground is moving due to the high numbers and erratic movement of this ant.



Dead ants are piled 1½ inches deep after repeated treatments around a building. The 3-inch diameter container lid is buried halfway by ant bodies.

Management Facts

- ▶ 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.

Tawny Crazy Ant Facts

What you may see your pest control professional do:

- ▶ Treat landscape plants
- ▶ Spread insecticidal granules that kill ants by contact
- ▶ Spray liquid insecticides around the perimeter of your house
- ▶ Apply baits that ants will consume and share with other ants
- ▶ Apply crack and crevice products on the inside of homes or buildings

What your pest control professional cannot do:

- ▶ Treat other people's property
- ▶ Put pesticides down sewers
- ▶ Make "off-label" applications

What homeowners should do and expect:

- ▶ 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 and yard debris removal
- ▶ If you have taken pest control measures, please do not hose the ants off the pavement area with water. You will wash away your treatment. Use a blower instead.
- ▶ Pest control customers used to quarterly or yearly service will find that they must pay for a monthly (or more frequent) service.
- ▶ Homeowners should be careful about "self-treating" since it may counteract what your pest control professional has done. For example, if you spray an insecticide over a bait you will render the bait ineffective.

Information developed by:



For more information, contact your local County Extension Office.