

How to Control Red Imported Fire Ants Using Integrated Pest Management



A training tutorial for pest management in
public schools

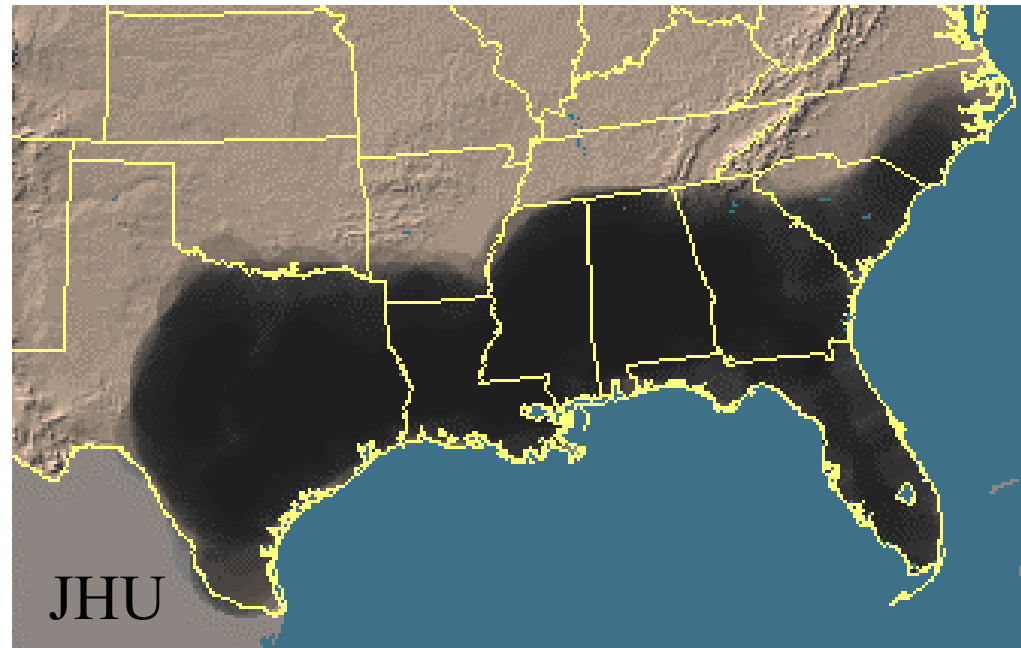
Description of Fire Ants



- Reddish-brown, 1/8-1/4 inch long
- Feeds on plant oils, some sweets
- Inflicts painful sting
- Can cause death in allergic people
- Constructs dome-shaped nest using soil



Distribution of Imported Fire Ants



To limit the spread of imported fire ants, a federal quarantine restricts the movement of soil, potted plants, sod, etc. to uninfested areas of the U.S. Any shipments outside the quarantine area requires inspection and certification by proper authorities.

How to Control Fire Ants



Immediate solution in sensitive area outdoors. Example: playground.

- Treat fire ant mound with liquid drench:
 - hot boiling water (190-212°F), or
 - pyrethroid insecticide
- If pesticide drench is used, be sure to restrict access until risk of exposure is removed from treated area.

How to Control Fire Ants - 2



Immediate solution in sensitive area indoors.

Example: electrical boxes, carpet.

- Use vacuum cleaner to remove existing ants and notify pest manager.
- Note specifics of fire ant entrance and provide this information to pest manager.
- Treatment of infested area should be conducted after hours.
- Follow up treatment with appropriate crack sealers or caulking.

How to Control Fire Ants - 3



Long Term Suppression

- Mound treatment using granular bait.
 - Always use dry/fresh material.
 - Follow label and sprinkle bait granules around mound.
 - Apply granules when temperatures are between 70° and 90° F.
 - Avoid application during mid-day sun.

How to Control Fire Ants - 4



Long Term Suppression (continued)

– Broadcast Bait Application

- Granular bait is applied to large areas such as ball fields following label rate.
- Locating and identifying individual mounds is not necessary.
- Helps prevent fire ants from establishing and can provide up to one year of control.

Example of Fire Ant Treatment

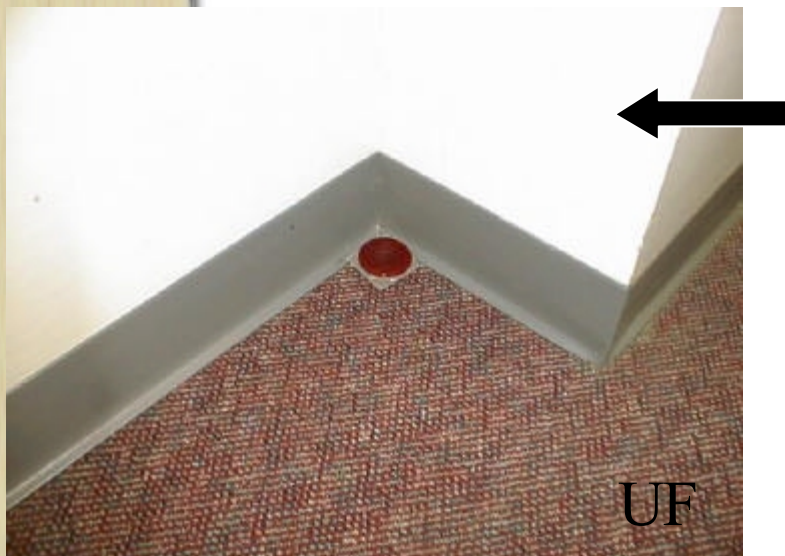


- Fire ants have infested a hallway.

- These ants and their debris can be removed using a vacuum.

- Then, an appropriate treatment can be applied such as a containerized bait station.

- Ant entry should be inspected and sealed.



Example of Fire Ant Treatment



- Fire ant nest located outside on a ball field.
- Any nest located here should be treated immediately.
- Use of a granular bait is appropriate here.
- This area should be inspected periodically throughout the year.

Acknowledgements

Authors: Clay W. Scherer and
Philip G. Koehler
University Of Florida



Photos: University of Florida

U.S. Map: Ray Sterner
Johns Hopkins University

This is one of several presentations available at
the School IPM World Wide Web Site

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

Entomology And Nematology Department
Copyright University of Florida 1999