



ANT IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Ant identification is not easy, but it's the most important first step to effective ant control. Ants are social insects, living in colonies that can number in the thousands. Ant colonies of some species have only one queen, while other species may have many queens. The queens stay in the nest, while worker ants forage for food for the colony, care for the queen and young, and defend the colony. The ants found in and around a structure are worker ants, and they can be one size (monomorphic) or two or more sizes (polymorphic).

The next few pages provide information on the appearance and behavior of common ant species to help you properly identify the ant you've encountered.

How to use this guide:

To control ants, pest management professionals must choose a treatment to target the infesting species. Different ant species require different treatment approaches. Compare the ants you see with the ants pictured inside. The accompanying symbols provide a quick reference guide for each species. A 30X hand lens will be required to correctly identify the smaller ants.



Outdoor Nesting



Indoor Nesting



One Node



Two Nodes



Polymorphic
(ants come in all
different sizes)



Found Mainly
in Warm Climates

Insecticides from FMC Professional Solutions

Indoors or outdoors, one-noded or two-noded, sweet-feeders or protein-feeders — ants come in many varieties. But no matter how different, these insects have one thing in common: they can't escape insecticides from FMC Professional Solutions.



Talstar® Insecticides

For years, Talstar® has been the number one trusted brand in general pest control. Pest management professionals continue to depend on Talstar insecticides for reliable, long-lasting control of more than 75 indoor and outdoor pests, including many species of ants. Available in liquid, granular, and aerosol formulations, there is a Talstar product for virtually any ant account you face.

Transport® GHP Insecticide

Transport® GHP has been formulated for unparalleled efficacy and long-lasting residual — even on the toughest ant problems. With its faster knockdown and optimized transfer effect, Transport GHP often achieves 100% control within 24 hours!

Transport® Mikron™ Insecticide

All of the speed and efficacy of Transport® GHP insecticide is also available in an advanced microemulsion formulation. Transport Mikron™ insecticide has been developed to be extremely stable and won't settle out like other products can, so you can be confident that the right amount of active ingredient goes to every inch you treat. And unlike other products that can leave a messy residue, Transport Mikron is completely clear — so no trace of pests or pesticides are left behind.

D-Foam™ Insecticide

For wood-destroying ants hiding in wall voids, floor joists, damaged wood structures and other areas, choose D-Foam™ insecticide. D-Foam delivers powerful residual control and features an amazing 60:1 expansion ratio to penetrate the deepest voids while using less product.

D-Force™ Insecticide

Ideal for crack and crevice control in food handling areas, D-Force™ insecticide provides up to 8 weeks protection against ants and over 50 other pests.



1 Acrobat Ant *(Crematogaster spp.)*

Color: Light brown to dark brownish black.

Workers: One size with heart-shaped abdomen.

Nesting: They nest outdoors in soil, leaves, or wood; indoors in building voids and insulation. May be found in wood previously tunneled by termites or carpenter ants, also in rigid foam insulation.

Location: Throughout the United States.

Food facts: Eats a variety of foods including sweets and protein.

Actual Size:
1/8 inch



2 Argentine Ant *(Linepithema humile)*

Color: Small, shiny, brown.

Workers: One size.

Nesting: They nest outdoors under logs, concrete slabs, debris, and mulch. They build large colonies and can move rapidly. In winter they move indoors.

Location: Throughout the southeastern United States and California.

Food facts: Prefers sweets, fats, and oils.

Actual Size:
1/8 inch



3 Big-Headed Ant *(Pheidole spp.)*

Color: Several dozen species ranging from light brown to dark reddish brown.

Workers: Two sizes

Nesting: It is rare that big-headed ants live indoors; preferring protected outdoor areas under logs, mulch, firewood, or patio blocks. Active foragers, ant trails are common along sidewalks, foundations, and inside along baseboards and under carpets.

Location: Throughout the United States.

Food facts: Feeds on insects, protein, grease, sweets, seeds.

Actual Size:
1/16 in. workers
1/8 in. seed crackers



4 Caribbean Crazy Ant* *Nylanderia (=Paratrechina) pubens (Forel)*

Color: Golden-reddish-brown.

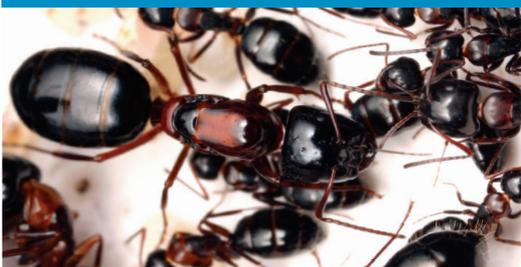
Workers: One size.

Nesting: This species can exhibit large population numbers. Colonies have been observed to have several hundred thousand individuals and appear to nest in many locations with multiple queens. Caribbean crazy ants have been observed emerging from soffits of houses, under objects on the ground such as landscaping timbers or rocks, wooden debris, underground electrical conduits and cracks in cement.

Location: Significant pest in Florida and Texas.

Food facts: Eats a variety of foods.

Actual Size:
1/8 inch



5 Carpenter Ant *(Camponotus spp.)*

Color: Many varieties of different colors – tan, red, black.

Workers: Many sizes.

Nesting: Carpenters hollow out dead, moist wood in trees, firewood and fence posts to build nests, but they don't eat wood. Inside, they build colonies in wall voids, foam insulation, eaves, and crawlspaces. Carpenter ants forage at night during summer months.

Location: Throughout the United States.

Food facts: Feeds on insects, insect secretions during the summer.

Often invade structures in spring and fall looking for other food sources. Likes sweets.

Actual Size:
1/4 - 1/2 inch





6 Cornfield Ant (*Lasius alienus*)

Color: Brown to black in color.

Workers: One size.

Nesting: Nests in lawns, between cracks in sidewalks, and under rocks.

Location: Throughout the United States. Occasional house pest in the northern states.

Food facts: Enters homes in search of food, typically an uninvited guest at picnics. Likes sweets.

Actual Size:
1/8 inch



KEY:  



7 Crazy Ant (*Paratrechina longicornis*)

Color: Dark brown to black, body often has faint bluish iridescence due to grey hairs.

Workers: One size. Easy to identify by observing its rapid and erratic movements.

Nesting: Highly adaptable, living in both very dry and rather moist habitats. It often nests some distance away from its foraging area in such places as trash, cavities in plants and trees, rotten wood, and in soil under objects.

Location: Throughout the United States.

Food facts: Prefers high-protein in summer months and are attracted to honeydew producing homopterans in spring and fall.

Actual Size:
1/10 inch



KEY:   



8 Fire Ant (*Solenopsis spp.*)

Color: Red imported fire ant, black imported fire ant, tropical fire ant, and the mature southern fire ant all have painful stings.

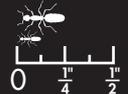
Workers: Many sizes.

Nesting: Usually build mounds outdoors in sunny areas and are very aggressive. Colonies can grow to hundreds of thousands.

Location: Throughout southern states.

Food facts: Eats almost any plant or animal matter. Prefers high-protein foods.

Actual Size:
1/8 - 1/4 inch



KEY:    



9 Ghost Ant (*Tapinoma melanocephalum*)

Color: Head and thorax dark brown to black, abdomen and legs opaque.

Workers: One size.

Nesting: Ghost ants usually nest outdoors under stones, logs, firewood or in potted plants, but they build colonies behind baseboards, in wall voids, and in cabinets of buildings where they find food.

Location: Significant pest in Florida and Hawaii. In the northern states, it is sometimes found in greenhouse-infested plants shipped from Florida.

Food facts: Feeds on dead insects, sweets and other food.

Actual Size:
1/16 inch



KEY:   



10 Little Black Ant (*Monomorium minimum*)

Color: Black.

Workers: One size, very small, similar to pharaoh ant.

Nesting: May build outdoor colonies under rocks, logs, debris, and in landscape mulch.

Location: Throughout the United States, but most often in the East. One of the more common house-infesting ants. They nest in wall voids, under carpets, in woodwork, decaying wood, and masonry. Forages to indoor food sources along baseboards and carpet edges.

Food facts: Likes sweets, fats, oils.

Actual Size:
1/16 inch



KEY:   



11 Odorous House Ant *(Tapinoma sessile)*

Color: Dark brown to black.

Workers: One size. Bitter odor when crushed – smells like rotten coconuts.

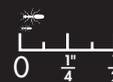
Nesting: Nests in a wide variety of places outdoors and inside. These ants commonly construct shallow nests in soil underneath objects, such as stones, patio blocks, and debris. Inside, they prefer areas with moisture such as around hot water pipes and heaters. Odorous house ants have multiple queens. The ants forage when temperatures are cool, even down to 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

Location: Throughout the United States.

Food facts: Strongly trailing ant; it tends aphids for honeydew and prefers dead insects, sweets and meat.



Actual Size:
1/16 - 1/8 inch



12 Pavement Ant *(Tetramorium caespitum)*

Color: Dark brown.

Workers: One size, small, with small stingers.

Nesting: Nesting along sidewalks and foundations of buildings, near firewood, stones, brick, mulch, etc. They forage in trails from outside colonies to indoor food sources, far from nests. May throw soil out on top of concrete slabs when inside buildings; swarm in buildings. Often access structures via plumbing pipes and move to upper building floors.

Location: Throughout the United States.

Food facts: Eats dead insects, greasy food, sweets, pet food.



Actual Size:
1/8 inch



13 Pharaoh Ant *(Monomorium pharaonis)*

Color: Yellow with a reddish abdomen.

Workers: One size.

Nesting: Typically builds nests in wood, wall voids, baseboards, etc. Colonies are quite large, with many queens. They prefer warm humid areas near food and water.

Location: Throughout the United States, most commonly in southern states. In northern states, species will nest in heated buildings. Common hospital pest.

Food facts: Likes fats and oils.



Actual Size:
1/16 inch



14 Pyramid Ant *(Dorymyrmex spp.)*

Color: Reddish head and thorax with black abdomen.

Workers: One size.

Nesting: Nesting outdoors, constructs nests in soil in open, sunny areas that are free of vegetation. Excavated soil is distributed in a circle around the mound entrance. Mounds are 2 to 4 inches in diameter and may be located near the nests of other ants.

Location: Throughout the United States, most common in southern states.

Food facts: Likes fats and oils.



Actual Size:
1/8 inch



15 Rover Ant *(Brachymyrmex spp.)*

Color: Dark brown to pale blond.

Workers: One size, commonly mistaken for the little black ant or pharaoh ant.

Nesting: Common in woods and other natural settings, as well as around buildings. In natural settings they nest in soil or decaying wood. In buildings they prefer areas with high moisture and are often associated with bathrooms or plumbing or structural leaks.

Location: Reported in many states, particularly the southern states from California to Florida.

Food facts: Likes sweets.



Actual Size:
1/16 inch





16 Thief Ant *(Solenopsis molesta)*

Color: Light brown or yellow.

Workers: Very small, one size.

Nesting: Nests near other ant colonies and steals food and larvae to feed their own colony. Outside they nest under rocks or logs, inside they nest in wall voids and behind baseboards. They move in trails along baseboards.

Location: Throughout the United States.

Food facts: Likes greasy foods, rarely sweet.

Actual Size:
1/16 inch



17 White-footed Ant *(Technomyrmex albipes)*

Color: Dark body; the key distinguishing feature is the pale light color of the tarsi on all six legs.

Workers: One size.

Nesting: Literally any object on the ground, heavy vegetation or trees can be used as a nesting site. It has also been observed nesting in dead wood cavities of trees. Foraging trails are pronounced and easy to find outdoors. Indoors they will nest in wall voids and plants.

Location: Well-established throughout most of south Florida and on the island of Oahu in Hawaii.

Food facts: Likes sweets.

Actual Size:
1/8 inch



TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL ANT CONTROL

In addition to using the right products, many small steps can be taken to help keep ants out of the home.

1. If you see a line of ants making its way through the house, follow it to determine its origination point. Ants can enter through a window, molding crevice, or even a crack in the floor.
2. Keep food in tightly sealed containers or in the refrigerator. Food left anywhere else may attract more ants.
3. Using baits: ant food preferences between carbohydrates, fat and protein can change with the seasons and with the evolving needs of the colony. If one type of bait does not work, then try another.
4. Get rid of trailing ants by vacuuming them up along with some corn starch, causing them to suffocate. They can also be washed away with soap and water.
5. Eliminate the scent of the trail by washing the area once the ants have been removed with soap and hot water.
6. Permanently seal the point of entry by caulking windows and cracks and weather-stripping doors.
7. For best results, place baits along observed foraging trails.

For more information on effective ant control, visit www.fmcprosolutions.com or contact your FMC Market Specialist or local FMC Distributor.



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