



Bayer Environmental Science

Ant Identification Guide

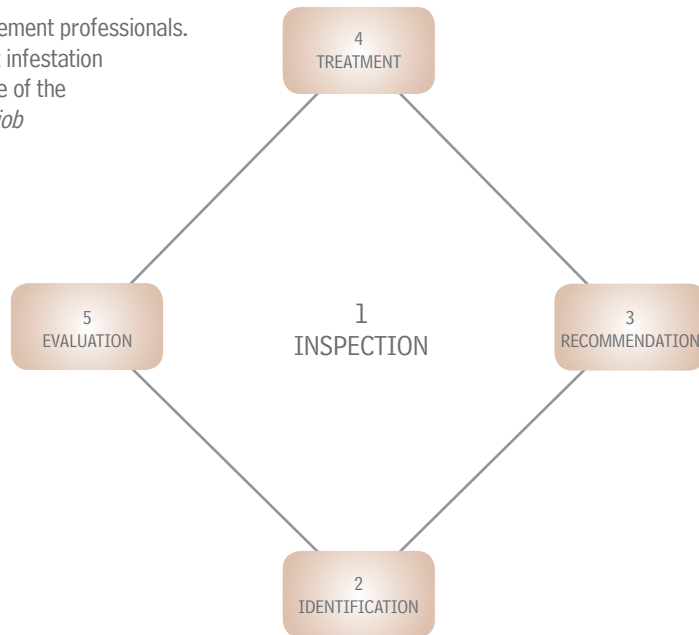


Steps to Successful Ant Elimination

Successful Ant Control Process

Customers have good reasons for relying on pest management professionals. Perhaps they've tried — and failed — to deal with an ant infestation on their own, or they're simply overwhelmed by the scope of the problem. Whatever the reason, *a thorough and effective job of insect control will ensure customer satisfaction, build business and enhance your company's reputation.*

For professionals, the job of controlling structure-infesting ants is a five-step process:



1. Inspection. The first step is a thorough inspection to locate foraging trails, ant colonies and conditions conducive to ant infestations. Remember, more than one species may be found in and around a structure. When inspecting for foraging workers, pay close attention to “lines” where ants like to travel, such as expansion cracks in driveways and sidewalks and along foundation walls, fence lines, etc.

2. Identification. The ant species’ peculiar habits and biology will help you find where the colony or colonies are located and develop the most cost-effective control strategies. If unsure, collect specimens for positive identification.

3. Recommendation. Present the customer with an integrated pest management (IPM) program that addresses the current problem and identifies conditions that may contribute to the infestation. Correcting these conditions helps prevent future infestations.

4. Treatment. In most cases, effective control includes a pesticide application in combination with nonchemical control procedures that eliminate conditions conducive to ant infestations, such as exclusion, trimming vegetation away from the structure, eliminating moisture problems, removing dead wood, etc.

5. Evaluation. The key to long-term customer satisfaction is to follow up and assess the effectiveness of your service measures.

Of all insects that infest buildings, ants are the most common. Each ant species is unique in terms of nesting sites, habits, characteristics and feeding preferences.

This guide is designed to help you meet the needs of your customers by helping you identify and manage common pest ant species in your area. The ants in this guide are separated into one-node and two-node species. The color illustrations are followed by a description of each species, its customary nest sites and characteristics, feeding preferences, and proven control strategies.

Note: Shaded areas on the maps on the following pages indicate where each ant is most prevalent, although it may appear in other regions.

For information on the use of ant control products from Bayer Environmental Science, call Bayer Technical Service at 800-331-2867 or visit BackedbyBayer.com. **Before using any pesticide, read the label and follow directions carefully.**

Ant Identification Guide

Table of Contents

Basic Anatomy of the Ant 3

One-Node Ants

Argentine Ant	4
Carpenter Ant (<i>C. pennsylvanicus</i>).....	5
Carpenter Ant (<i>C. modoc</i>).....	6
Carpenter Ant (<i>C. vicinus</i>).....	7
Crazy Ant	8
Ghost Ant	9
Odorous House Ant	10
White-Footed Ant	11

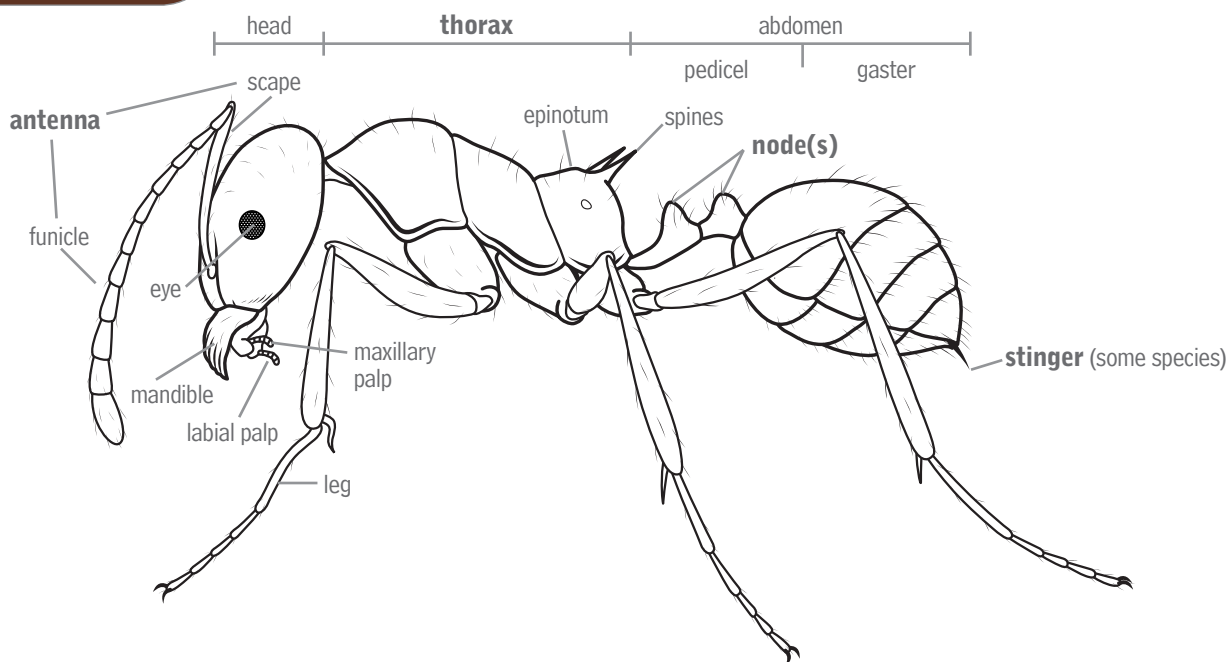
Two-Node Ants

Acrobat Ant	12
Big-Headed Ant	13
Little Black Ant	14
Pavement Ant	15
Pharaoh Ant	16
Red Imported Fire Ant	17
Thief Ant	18

Know the Difference: Ants vs. Termite Swarmers 19

Product Use by Ant Type 20

Basic Anatomy of the Ant



One-node ants

Scientific name:
Linepithema humile
(Mayr)

Argentine Ant



Nest Site/Characteristics: Argentine ant colonies live in moist areas near a food source. Colony numbers fluctuate seasonally, ranging from one hundred to several hundred thousand workers and many queens. Foraging workers follow trails; winged queens can sometimes be found among them. Argentine ants live outdoors in shallow nests in moist areas, including under boards and stones, beneath plants and along sidewalks. Argentine ants will also nest indoors. When outdoor conditions are too wet or too dry, Argentine ants invade buildings by trailing along tree and shrub branches, utility lines and wires.

Feeding Preferences: Argentine ants prefer sweets such as honeydew, fruit juices and plant secretions, but will also forage on proteins (meat, insects, eggs) and fats and even attack small, vulnerable animals.

Control: When Argentine ant colonies are eliminated, new colonies may quickly take their place. Effective management programs should 1) correct conducive conditions and seal possible entries; 2) find and treat existing colonies; 3) apply perimeter treatments; and 4) use baits.

- For colonies living in soil, under mulch, under stones or debris, treat each mound thoroughly with Temprid® SC, Tempo® or Suspend® and apply a perimeter treatment.
- For effective perimeter treatments, apply Temprid SC, Tempo, Suspend or DeltaGard® G.
- To treat colonies in wood or behind stone or brick veneer, drill holes into galleries and inject dust, such as Drione® or Tempo, or inject voids with Premise® Foam. Access wall voids via electrical outlet and plumbing installation holes and inject an insecticide dust or residual spray. Do not apply liquids in or around electrical equipment.
- Use Maxforce® Quantum or Maxforce FC Ant Gel indoors or outdoors adjacent to ant trails, suspected areas of ant activity, or where ants may enter the structure. Be sure to use the high application rate when large or numerous colonies are present.
- Place Maxforce FC Ant Bait Stations indoors or outdoors adjacent to structures and immediately next to ant trails or close to areas where ants are numerous.
- Apply Maxforce Complete Granular Insect Bait as a perimeter treatment, along ant trails and around nest sites. In heavy infestations, granular insect bait may be broadcast in yards to expand the control area and prevent new ant colonies from entering the structure.



- One node segment with sharp, pointed peak
- Brown; some light brown
- Uneven thorax
- 12-segmented antennae, no club
- Sparse body hairs
- No stinger
- Monomorphic workers, 1/8 in (3.5 mm) long

One-node ants
Scientific name:
Camponotus pennsylvanicus
(DeGeer)

Carpenter Ant

[Pennsylvania/Black Carpenter Ant]



Nest Site/Characteristics: Moderately sized mature colonies contain more than 3,000 workers with one queen per colony (colonies may contain satellite nests that consist of workers, larvae and pupae; together with the main colony, the total population may exceed 15,000). Nests usually originate in moist, decayed wood and voids and may later expand into sound wood. Look for coarse sawdust piles (frass) that contain insect body parts and listen for the sound produced as workers chew to remove wood to enlarge the nest. Outside, nests are commonly found in dead or damaged portions of trees, rotting logs and stumps.

Carpenter ants forage alone or along trails 300 or more feet from the nest. "Trunk trails" between parent and satellite nests are clear of vegetation and debris, typically cutting across lawns. Carpenter ants enter buildings around door and window frames, through eaves, along plumbing and utility lines, and over branches touching the structure. Peak foraging occurs at night.

Feeding Preferences: Carpenter ants feed primarily on insect honeydew, plant and fruit juices and insects. Indoors, they feed on food debris, including sweets, eggs, meats, cakes, pet foods and grease.

Control: Find and directly treat as many nests as possible. Drione and Tempo Dust are good flushing agents when inspecting voids. Check suspicious areas with a probe that will penetrate infested wood. Successful control depends on eliminating the parent colony, which is usually located outdoors.

- Thoroughly inspect property and interview residents to help locate nests and identify conducive conditions. Trim vegetation and eliminate moisture problems.
- For colonies in wall voids, inject an insecticide dust, such as Drione or Tempo, or inject voids with Premise Foam.
- For effective perimeter treatments, apply Temprid SC, Tempo, Suspend or DeltaGard G.
- Apply spot treatments to any possible ant entry point. Apply insecticide sprays around the base of trees that possibly harbor nests.
- Place Maxforce Carpenter Ant Bait Gel on foraging trails, near suspected nest locations, where ants enter the building, in areas with water damage and on trunks of trees with ant activity.

- Black (other *Camponotus* species may be dark brown, dark red or a combination of these colors)
- One node segment
- Circular ring of hairs at end of abdomen (visible with hand lens)
- Spineless thorax, profile evenly rounded on upper side
- Top of gaster covered with long, pale yellow or white hairs
- 12-segmented antennae, no club
- No stinger
- Polymorphic workers, 1/4–1/2 in (7–13 mm) long



One-node ants

Scientific name:
Camponotus modoc
(Wheeler)

Carpenter Ant [Western Carpenter Ant]



Nest Site/Characteristics: Typical colonies contain 10,000–20,000 workers, but can contain as many as 100,000 with one queen per nest. Nests usually originate in decayed wood and later expand into sound wood. Look for coarse sawdust piles (frass) that will also contain insect body parts and listen for the sound produced as workers chew to remove wood to enlarge the nest. Outside, nests are commonly found in dead or damaged portions of trees, rotting logs and stumps and landscape timbers.

Carpenter ants forage alone or along trails 300 or more feet from the nest. “Trunk trails” between parent and satellite nests are clear of vegetation and debris, typically cutting across lawns. Carpenter ants enter buildings around door and window frames, through eaves, along plumbing and utility lines, and over branches touching the structure. Peak foraging occurs at night (note activity at dusk or dawn).

Feeding Preferences: Carpenter ants feed primarily on insect honeydew, plant and fruit juices and insects. Indoors, they feed on food debris, including sweets, eggs, meats, cakes, pet foods and grease.

Control: Find and directly treat as many nests as possible. Drione and Tempo Dust are good flushing agents when inspecting voids. Check suspicious areas with a probe that will penetrate infested wood. Successful control depends on eliminating the parent colony, which is usually located outdoors.

- Thoroughly inspect property and interview residents to help locate nests and identify conducive conditions. Trim vegetation and eliminate moisture problems.
- For colonies in wall voids, inject an insecticide dust, such as Drione or Tempo, or inject voids with Premise Foam.
- For effective perimeter treatments, apply Temprid SC, Tempo, Suspend or DeltaGard G.
- Apply spot treatments to any possible ant entry point. Apply insecticide sprays around the base of trees that possibly harbor nests.
- Place Maxforce Carpenter Ant Bait Gel on foraging trails, near suspected nest locations, where ants enter the building, in areas with water damage and on trunks of trees with ant activity.

- Dull black body, reddish legs
- One node segment
- Golden hairs cover abdomen
- Circular ring of golden hairs at end of abdomen (visible with hand lens)
- Spineless thorax, profile evenly rounded on upper side
- 12-segmented antennae, no club
- No stinger
- Polymorphic workers, 1/4–1/2 in (7–13 mm) long



One-node ants

Scientific name:
Camponotus vicinus
(Mayr)

Carpenter Ant



Nest Site/Characteristics: This serious structural pest nests in sound wood but prefers fungus- or moisture-damaged wood. Outside, it nests in dead trees, rotting stumps and beneath rocks and logs. Colonies can be large, with up to 100,000 workers and multiple queens. Look for coarse sawdust piles (frass) that will also contain insect body parts. Another indicator is the sound produced as workers chew to remove wood to enlarge the nest.

Carpenter ants forage alone or along trails 300 or more feet from the nest. "Trunk trails" between parent and satellite nests are clear of vegetation and debris, typically cutting across lawns. Carpenter ants enter buildings around door and window frames, through eaves, along plumbing and utility lines, and over branches touching the building. Peak foraging occurs at night.

Feeding Preferences: Carpenter ants feed primarily on insect honeydew, plant and fruit juices and insects. Indoors, they feed on food debris, including sweets, eggs, meats, cakes, pet foods and grease.

Control: Find and directly treat as many nests as possible. Drione and Tempo Dust are good flushing agents when inspecting voids. Check suspicious areas with a probe that will penetrate infested wood. Successful control depends on eliminating the parent colony, which is usually located outdoors.

- Thoroughly inspect property and interview residents to help locate nests and identify conducive conditions. Trim vegetation and eliminate moisture problems.
- For colonies in wall voids, inject an insecticide dust, such as Drione or Tempo, or inject voids with Premise Foam.
- For effective perimeter treatments, apply Tempid SC, Tempo, Suspend or DeltaGard G.
- Apply spot treatments to any possible ant entry point. Apply insecticide sprays around the base of trees that possibly harbor nests.
- Place Maxforce Carpenter Ant Bait Gel on foraging trails, near suspected nest locations, where ants enter the building, in areas with water damage and on trunks of trees with ant activity.

- Black with red thorax
- One node segment
- Circular ring of hairs at end of abdomen (visible with hand lens)
- Gaster densely covered with long, pale yellow or white hairs
- Spineless thorax, profile evenly rounded on upper side
- 12-segmented antennae, no club
- No stinger
- Polymorphic workers, 1/4–1/2 in (7–13 mm) long



One-node ants

Scientific name:
Paratrechina longicornis
(Latreille)

Crazy Ant



Nest Site/Characteristics: Crazy ants are noted for their erratic movements. They appear to be lost and confused. Colonies tend to be small, with up to 2,000 workers and 8–40 queens. The presence of numerous interconnected colonies may result in larger infestations. Colonies may spontaneously abandon one nest site and move to another. Inside, crazy ants usually nest under floors and in wall voids, frequently near hot-water pipes and heaters. Workers follow trails of up to 100 feet to forage for food. Outside, nests are shallow and in soil under objects or in plant cavities, trees, trash, refuse, mulch and potted plants. Crazy ants enter homes in the fall or after rain when honeydew supplies are reduced.

Feeding Preferences: Crazy ants prefer insects and sweets, but will feed on any household food. Outside, their preferred diet includes insects, seeds, fruits and honeydew from aphids, mealybugs and scale insects.

Control: Locate the nest by following the trail of foraging workers from their food source. Thoroughly treat each nest with Temprid SC, Tempo or Suspend.

- In infested interior walls or in the voids of outside ground-floor walls, drill and inject insecticide dust, such as Drione or Tempo, or inject voids with Premise Foam. Access wall voids via electrical outlets and plumbing installation holes.
- For perimeter treatments, apply Temprid SC, Tempo, Suspend or DeltaGard G.
- Maxforce Quantum is the bait of choice for crazy ants. Treat foraging ant trails, near suspected nest sites, cracks and crevices around the perimeter and suspected areas of ant activity.

- Very long antennae and legs compared to body
- First antennal segment about twice as long as head
- Slender, dark brown to black body with gray sheen/luster
- One node segment
- Uneven thorax
- 12-segmented antennae, no club
- Thorax lacks spines, profile unevenly rounded
- Circular ring of hair at end of abdomen (visible with hand lens)
- No stinger
- Monomorphic workers, 1/16–1/8 in (2–3.5 mm) long



One-node ants

Scientific name:
Tapinoma melanocephalum
(Fabricius)

Ghost Ant



Nest Site/Characteristics: Ghost ant nests are moderate to large with thousands of workers and many queens. Inside nests are generally located within wall voids, behind baseboards, between cabinets and walls or in potted plant soil. Outside nests are in potted plants, under stones, under and inside logs and firewood, in debris of tree crotches, in cavities of dead trees and shrubs and in hollow cavities of plants.

Ghost ants readily enter buildings, usually by trailing from nests along guidelines, such as foundations or via branches. Ghost ants will enter structures from ground to roof levels. Workers run rapidly and erratically, trailing along edges and corners. Indoor trails are hidden, under carpet edges and along electrical wires in wall voids. Because ghost ants have high moisture needs, they often trail to sinks, wash basins, commodes and shower stalls. Outdoor trails can be found behind grass and/or mulch lining sidewalks, patios and foundation walls.

Feeding Preferences: Ghost ants prefer honeydew and insects, dead and living. Indoors, they prefer sweets and will forage for water sources during dry weather.

Control: Inspect indoors and out for nest locations or follow trailing ants to nests. Indoors, look near moisture sources, food sources, carpet edges, shoe moldings, electrical outlets, phone jacks and walls around possible entryways. Outdoors, inspect along foundation walls, patio and sidewalks as well as likely nesting areas.

- If nests cannot be located, bait with Maxforce Quantum or Maxforce FC Ant Killer Bait Gel along trails and around entryways.
- If ghost ants are feeding on proteins (e.g., dead insects, pet foods), apply Maxforce Complete granular insect bait along trails or into voids where ants enter.
- Treat inside nests directly with Temprid SC, Tempo or Suspend. Dusting voids with Drione or Tempo is also effective, as well as injecting voids with Premise Foam.
- Treat outdoor nests with Temprid SC, Tempo or Suspend.
- In cases of continual ghost ant invasions from outside, treat the perimeter with a residual spray, place Maxforce Quantum around the structure and broadcast Maxforce Complete Granule Insect Bait outside the spray perimeter.



- Dark head and thorax; pale abdomen and legs
- One node segment, hidden from view
- Uneven thorax; no spines
- 12-segmented antennae; segments gradually thicken toward tip
- Anal opening on gaster is slit-like with no circle of hairs
- No stinger
- Monomorphic workers, very small, 1/16 in (2 mm) long

One-node ants
Scientific name:
Tapinoma sessile (Say)

Odorous House Ant



Nest Site/Characteristics: Odorous house ant colonies may contain up to 100,000 ants with many queens. Super colonies may exist where food, water and brood are exchanged between satellite locations. Indoors, odorous house ants nest in wall voids, especially around hot-water pipes and heaters, and in crevices around sinks and cupboards. Outdoors, nests are often found in soil, usually under objects. Odorous house ants are most likely to enter buildings when colonies become very large and natural food and water sources become scarce and when climate conditions are extreme (drought or flood).

Feeding Preferences: When indoors, odorous house ants prefer sweets during most of the warm season, but will eat high-protein foods and greasy meats and cheese as dictated by colony requirements. Outdoors, they feed on honeydew, plant secretions and sometimes seeds and insects.

Control: Locating the nests is crucial. Follow the trail of foraging workers back from their food source. Thoroughly treat exposed colonies using Temprid SC, Tempo or Suspend.

- Dust voids of outside ground-floor walls and infested interior walls with insecticide dust, such as Drione or Tempo, or inject voids with Premise Foam. Access wall voids via cracks and crevices, electrical outlets and pipe chases.
- A perimeter treatment with Temprid SC, Tempo, Suspend or DeltaGard G will keep odorous house ants from entering buildings. Spot treat entry point (e.g., window and door frames and utility entries).
- Bait with Maxforce Quantum, Maxforce FC Ant Killer Bait Gel and/or Maxforce Complete Granular Insect Bait. Apply bait along trails, close to water sources and around entry points. Odorous house ants' feeding preferences may change quickly, without warning, so be prepared to use multiple bait formulations. Bait in sufficient amounts to ensure adequate exposure of the active ingredient to the extended colony. If odorous house ants are feeding on protein foods, apply Maxforce Complete Granular Insect Bait as a broadcast application in the yard.

- Workers emit a rotten, coconut-like odor when crushed
- Uniform brown to black color
- One flat node segment, hidden by abdomen
- Uneven thorax; no spines
- 12-segmented antennae, no club
- Gaster has slit-like anal opening with no circle of hair
- No stinger
- Monomorphic workers, 1/8 in (3.5 mm) long



One-node ants

Scientific name:
Technomyrmex albipes
(Fr. Smith)

White-Footed Ant



Nest Sites/Characteristics: White-footed ants are found in Florida, Hawaii and isolated areas of California. This species may be spread to other warm southern regions of the United States on infested goods and plants. White-footed ants nest in a variety of locations, and colonies can contain one million or more adults. These ants like to nest in dead wood, but will also invade and short out air conditioners. They nest in piles of lumber, firewood, stones, bricks, trash and heavy vegetation at foundations or in trees. Indoors, they nest in wall voids, potted plants and atriums. A single colony can encompass many sites, both close by and far away from a single nest. These extended colonies exchange workers, brood and food.

White-footed ants establish well-defined, easy-to-find foraging trails outside infested buildings. Trails commonly follow structural guidelines, such as edges of sidewalks, edges of brick buildings, ledges and soffit corners. Foragers often move into buildings from trees and shrubs touching walls or roofs. Once inside, workers forage along baseboards above and below carpet edges.

Feeding Preferences: White-footed ants prefer sweets. Outdoors, they feed on honeydew and tend aphids, mealybugs and scales. Trophallaxis (cross feeding) has not been observed in this species. Because of this, baiting programs will not be effective as a stand-alone management program.

Control: Complete elimination of established white-footed ant infestations is difficult. Regular inspections and/or treatments are necessary for control. Cultural controls (sanitation, harborage elimination and exclusion) or chemical control that eliminates honeydew sources should be considered.

- For ant colonies in soil, mulch or under items, treat each colony using Temprid SC, Tempo or Suspend.
- For ant colonies in wall voids, drill and inject a dust, such as Drione or Tempo, or inject voids with Premise Foam. Access wall voids via cracks and crevices, electrical outlets and plumbing installation holes.
- To treat colonies living behind brick and stone veneer, drill through mortar joints and dust.
- Perimeter treatments with a residual insecticide may only provide temporary relief and compound the infestation. Target likely nesting sites with granular, dust or residual sprays. Apply a systemic insecticide such as Temprid SC around or onto plants to control honeydew-producing insects.
- Maxforce Quantum is the bait of choice for white-footed ants. Treat foraging trails and suspected areas of ant activity.



- Dark body, usually black; pale yellow tarsi at end of legs
- One node segment, flattened and hidden under abdomen
- Uneven thorax
- 12-segmented antennae, no club
- Workers, 1/8 in (3.5 mm) long

Two-node ants
Scientific name:
Crematogaster spp.

Acrobat Ant



Nest Sites/Characteristics: Indoors, nests may be located where water damage has occurred, in decayed or damp wood or inside insulating wall panels and wall voids. Outdoors, acrobat ants nest under rocks or in logs, firewood or trees where decay allows them to tunnel under bark or into wood.

Workers trail along tree limbs, utility lines and rails of fences and decks, entering structures through cracks and holes around utility lines or pipes, window frames and soffits. Workers also trail across the ground and enter through door thresholds and small openings. Acrobat ants are aggressive when disturbed and give off a strong odor.

Feeding Preferences: Acrobat ants eat a wide variety of foods, including sweets and proteins. Workers like honeydew from sap-sucking insects (aphids, mealybugs, scale insects). These ants also prey on termite alates and immature stages of cotton boll weevil, grape curculio and codling moth.

Control: Thoroughly inspect and locate as many indoor and outdoor acrobat ant colonies as possible and treat them directly with Temprid SC, Tempo or Suspend.

- To treat colonies in wood, drill holes into galleries and inject insecticide dust (Drione or Tempo), insecticide foam (Premise) or residual sprays (Temprid SC, Tempo or Suspend). Access wall voids and inject dust or foam.
- For colonies foraging from the outside, seal cracks and crevices and trim vegetation in contact with the structure. Spot treat likely entrance sites or make a complete perimeter application with residual insecticide sprays.
- Remove colonies in firewood by discarding infested wood.
- Place ant bait stations indoors or outdoors adjacent to the structure and immediately next to ant trails or where ants are numerous. Use Maxforce Complete Granular Insect Bait around the outside of the structure. Apply Maxforce Quantum or Maxforce Ant Killer Bait Gel on foraging trails and areas of suspected ant activity.

- Heart-shaped abdomen often bends up over thorax when disturbed
- Two node segments
- Uneven thorax
- 11-segmented antennae, 3-segmented club
- One pair of spines on thorax
- Color varies from black to red and black
- Quick to bite; emits a strong odor when disturbed
- Stinger present
- Monomorphic workers are one size, 1/8 in (3.5 mm) long



Two-node ants
Scientific name:
Pheidole spp.

Big-Headed Ant



Nest Site/Characteristics: Most form small (200- to 300-member) colonies, but colonies of some species contain thousands of ants and multiple queens. Big-headed ants enter buildings occasionally, preferring to nest in protected soil (such as under stones, leaf litter, mulch, patio blocks, slabs, firewood and landscape timbers). Some nest in open areas where they make small mounds, or in crawl spaces in termite-damaged wood.

Big-headed ants trail readily, but usually not far from their nest. Their foraging trails are sometimes covered with soil, resembling subterranean termite foraging tubes.

Feeding Preferences: Big-headed ants prefer seeds and insects but will occasionally feed on honeydew from sap-sucking insects. Inside, they forage for meats, grease, liver, molasses, peanut butter, pet foods and fruit juices, preferring high-protein foods.

Control: Find and eliminate colonies in or around the structure.

- For big-headed ants living in the soil or under items, treat each colony directly with Temprid SC, Tempo or Suspend.
- To eliminate colonies in wall voids or inside wood, drill into the wall base or wood where the ants are living and inject insecticide dust, such as Drione or Tempo, or inject voids with Premise Foam.
- If the colony cannot be found, bait foraging trails or suspected areas of ant activity with Maxforce Quantum and/or Complete Where large, extended colonies are infesting buildings, inspect bait placements and replace as needed.
- For large, extended colonies, perimeter treatments are helpful after satellite colonies have been found and treated.

- Major workers' heads very large in proportion to body
- Light brown to dark reddish brown
- Two node segments
- Uneven thorax
- 12-segmented antennae; 3-segmented club
- One pair of spines on thorax
- Front half of head is sculptured; back is half-smooth and shiny
- Several species make sounds when alarmed or when food is found
- Workers 1/16–1/8 in (2–3.5 mm) long; all species have two different-sized workers



Two-node ants

Scientific name:
Monomorium minimum
(Buckley)

Little Black Ant



Nest Site/Characteristics: Colonies of little black ants are small and contain many queens. If disturbed, colonies will readily move to other locations. Winged reproductives appear from June to August. Indoors, little black ants nest in woodwork, decaying wood and masonry. Outside nests are found in the soil under rocks, logs or debris. Nests may also be found in landscape mulch and in open areas of lawns where nests are characterized by small craters of very fine soil. A common location for outdoor nests is directly adjacent to building foundations. These ants forage in trails commonly seen on foundation walls and along sidewalks.

Feeding Preferences: Little black ants are most commonly observed foraging on sugar sources such as insect honeydew and plant nectars. Indoors, little black ants may feed on grease, oil, meats, fruits, vegetable material such as corn meal, and sweets. Outdoors, they eat other insects, honeydew and sap secretions.

Control: Locate the nest or nests by following trails and treat each nest directly with Temprid SC, Tempo or Suspend. Direct nest treatments with residual insecticides will be most effective.

- Dust voids of outside ground-floor walls and infested interior walls with insecticide dust, such as Drione or Tempo, or inject voids with Premise Foam.
- Apply a perimeter treatment with Temprid SC, Tempo, Suspend or DeltaGard G.
- Bait with Maxforce Quantum or Maxforce FC Ant Killer Bait Gel.

- Black
- Two node segments
- Uneven thorax, no spines
- 12-segmented antennae, 3-segmented club
- Stinger, if visible, small and weak
- Monomorphic workers very small, 1/16 in (2 mm) long



Two-node ants

Scientific name:
Tetramorium caespitum
(Linnaeus)

Pavement Ant



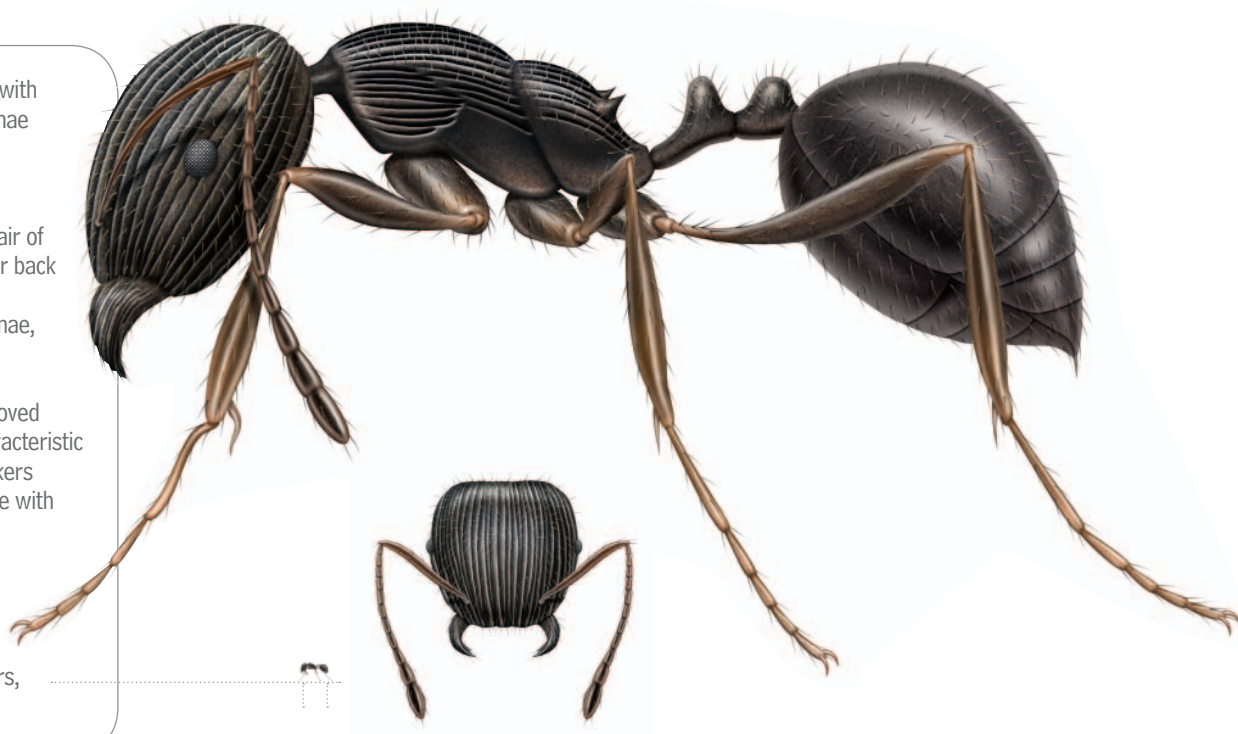
Nest Site/Characteristics: Colonies average 3,000–4,000 ants with several queens. Pavement ants normally nest in soil; however, they occasionally nest indoors in walls, insulation and under floors. Colonies will move near a heat source in winter. Pavement ants often follow pipes through slabs to access buildings. Outdoors, these ants nest in soil under stones, slabs, next to buildings and in pavement cracks. They enter through cracks in slabs, expansion joints and natural openings of buildings. Pavement ants like to travel under the edges of carpet next to the tack strip. To inspect or treat this area, carefully lift the carpet a small section at a time, then press down firmly to replace the carpet. Soil nests may have a characteristic “dirt crater” around the opening. Pavement ants forage up to 30 feet in trails.

Feeding Preferences: Pavement ants are opportunistic feeders that will “swarm” on foods that appear within their foraging range and are therefore easily controlled with bait. Indoors, pavement ants feed on meats, nuts, cheese, honey, bread crumbs, meats and grease. Pet food bowls are common foraging sites for pavement ants. Outdoors, this ant feeds on insects, honeydew, seeds and plant sap.

Control: Locate nest by following ants back from their food source.

- Treat outdoor nests and cracks in slabs directly with Temprid SC, Tempo or Suspend.
- Dust voids of outdoor ground-floor walls with insecticide dust, such as Drione or Tempo, or inject voids with Premise Foam.
- Apply residual insecticide sprays into expansion joints of concrete slabs.
- Use Temprid SC, Tempo, Suspend or DeltaGard G as a perimeter treatment.
- Pavement ants are easily controlled with Maxforce ant bait stations, Maxforce Complete Granular Insect Bait, Maxforce Quantum or Maxforce FC Ant Gel. Bait along foraging trails or at entry points. Maxforce Complete may be applied as a mound treatment as well. Apply one to two tablespoons around each mound.

- Light brown to black with paler legs and antennae
- Two node segments
- Uneven thorax has pair of small spines on upper back
- 12-segmented antennae, 3-segmented club
- Head and thorax grooved or sculpted with characteristic parallel lines on workers and swarms (visible with hand lens)
- Stinger present, but rarely used
- Monomorphic workers, 1/8 in (3.5 mm) long



Two-node ants

Scientific name:
Monomorium pharaonis
(Linnaeus)

Pharaoh Ant



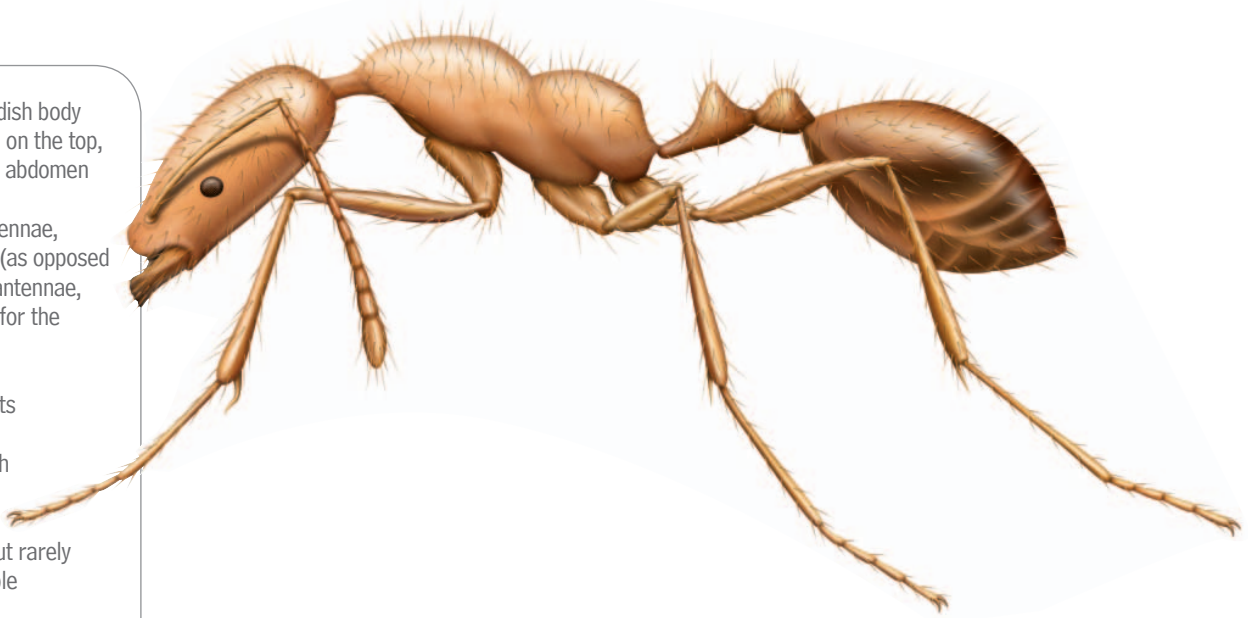
Nest Site/Characteristics: Pharaoh ant colonies range in size from several hundred thousand workers and several hundred reproductive females to very small colonies with 100 workers and one or two females. These ants nest almost anywhere, but prefer warm, humid areas near sources of food and water — in wall voids, behind baseboards, in furniture, under floors and between linens. In southern regions, colonies can exist outdoors. Workers range widely from the nest and establish visible trails to food and water sources. Pharaoh ants commonly use electrical and telephone wires, plumbing and other utility lines as trail routes. Outdoors, these ants nest in debris collected on flat roofs, entering and exiting via poorly caulked or defective windows, under flashing and through weep holes.

Feeding Preferences: Pharaoh ants have a wide preference of foods, from syrups to fruits, sweets, meats, pet foods and dead insects. Pharaoh ants have a high daily water requirement. Workers forage for water just as aggressively as for food. They will “harvest” water from unusual sources, such as aquariums, pet dishes, condensation on plumbing fixtures and windows, refrigerator condensation pans, air conditioners and house plants. In health care facilities, pharaoh ants have been known to forage on the wounds of immobile patients or residents.

Control: Caution: Using contact insecticides will cause pharaoh ant colonies to bud, scatter and reform as several new smaller colonies

- Baiting with a combination of Maxforce baits is the most effective way to eliminate pharaoh ants. Bait foraging trails and suspected areas of ant activity with Maxforce Complete, Maxforce Quantum and/or Maxforce FC Ant Gel. Place baits close to food and water sources. If nest sites are not readily accessible, use baits around suspected nest sites. Apply Complete Granule Bait under baseboards, into voids under cabinets and under heavy appliances. Inspect and apply granular bait under carpet edges along the tack strip by carefully pulling up the carpet with needle-nose pliers.
- DO NOT spray or disturb ants or bait stations. Avoid using cleaners around or over bait placements to maintain the integrity of pheromone trails.
- If the infestation is in a multifamily building, inspect and treat the entire building. Inform customers of the do's and don'ts of an ant-baiting program with Maxforce Antformation door hangers.
- Outdoors, bait placement should be made to all areas of activity, including fences, foundations and roofs.
- A preventative perimeter treatment with Temprid SC, Suspend, or Tempo will keep pharaoh ants from entering buildings.

- Pale yellow to reddish body with black shading on the top, rear portion of the abdomen
- 12-segmented antennae, 3-segmented club (as opposed to 10-segmented antennae, 2-segmented club for the thief ant)
- Two node segments
- Uneven thorax with no spines
- Stinger present, but rarely extended and visible
- Monomorphic workers, very small, 1/16–1/12 in (2.0–2.1 mm) long



Two-node ants
Scientific name:
Solenopsis invicta
(Buren)

Red Imported Fire Ant



Nest Site/Characteristics: Fire ants are pests of the southern United States. Native fire ants rarely become structural pests. The red imported fire ant (RIFA) and black imported fire ant have spread to more than 13 southern and western states and continue to expand their range. These ants cause serious medical, agricultural and property damage. The RIFA is very aggressive and will sting repeatedly, especially when their colony/mound is disturbed.

Fire ants typically nest outdoors in sunny areas of exposed soil or lawns. If untreated, fire ant infestations may reach 30–100 single-queen mounds per acre, containing up to 80,000 ants. Over time, colonies may “link,” creating supercolonies of up to 250,000 ants. Mounds are rounded and range from a few inches to several feet across. Each mound has several tunnels just under the soil surface extending out several feet. After rain, nests in sandy soil are rebuilt with sponge-like surfaces. When disturbed, fire ant workers pour out of their mound and aggressively attack the offender.

Colonies generally have their own territories. They forage in established trails. Red imported fire ants will sometimes nest in areas of exposed soil within buildings (e.g., bath traps). They also build outside nests adjacent to foundation walls and slabs. Fire ants are attracted to electrical junction boxes and air conditioners. They also nest in gas and water meter boxes and follow pipes into the building.

Feeding Preferences: Red imported fire ants prefer high-protein foods, but will feed on almost any plant or animal matter.

Control: TopChoice® applied as a broadcast treatment will control fire ants for up to one year. Knockdown may take several weeks, so early-season application (November–February) is recommended. In-season (when mounds are active), a combination treatment of TopChoice and Maxforce FC Fire Ant Bait or Maxforce Complete Granular Insect Bait provides fast knockdown and long-term control. A two-step program of first applying baits, then following with direct mound treatments with a liquid insecticide a few days later, has been demonstrated by Texas A&M University to be effective.

- Use a long injection probe to apply Tempid SC, Tempo or Suspend under high pressure into mounds.
- Apply Maxforce FC Fire Ant Bait as a broadcast, perimeter or mound treatment.

- Stinger present; stings are painful
- Reddish brown with darker abdomen
- 10-segmented antennae, 2-segmented club
- Two node segments
- Uneven thorax, no spines, many hairs on entire body
- Polymorphic workers, 1/16–1/4 in (2–7 mm) long



Two-node ants

Scientific name:
Solenopsis (Diplorhoptom) spp.

Thief Ant



Nest Site/Characteristics: Thief ant colonies are relatively small and contain a few hundred to several thousand workers with many queens. Thief ants commonly nest close to other species of ants. Flights of swarmers begin in June and end in late fall. Indoors, thief ants nest in small crevices, woodwork and masonry. These ants forage in set trails. Their behavior is similar to pharaoh ants. Outdoor nests are found in exposed soil or under objects, in trash, rotten wood and tree cavities. Thief ants commonly enter structures during hot, dry weather.

Feeding Preferences: Thief ants prefer high-protein foods, but will feed on sweets. They feed on meats, bread crumbs, fruit, animal fats, oils, nuts, pet foods and dairy products. Outdoors, thief ants feed on almost any organic matter, including insects, honeydew, seeds and germinating seeds.

Control: Locate thief ant nests. Follow the trail of foraging workers back from their food source. Inspect for other ant species that thief ants may be raiding.

- Dust in the voids of outside ground-floor walls with insecticide dust, such as Drione or Tempo, or inject voids with Premise Foam.
- For a perimeter treatment, use Tempriid SC, Tempo, Suspend or DeltaGard G.
- Bait with Maxforce FC Ant Killer Bait Stations, Maxforce Quantum or Maxforce Complete Granular Insect Bait.

- Pale yellow to light or dark brown
- Two node segments
- Uneven thorax, no spines
- 10-segmented antennae, 2-segmented club
- Small stinger may be visible, rarely effectively used
- Monomorphic workers, very small, 1/16 in (2 mm) long



Know the Difference: Ants vs. Termite Swarmers

Swarming termites and flying ants are often mistaken for each other. Their sizes may be similar. However, there are several notable differences:

Flying Ants	Swarming Termites
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elbowed antennae• Two pairs of wings, rear wings smaller than front wings• Wings have few well-defined veins• Pinched waist• Long legs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Straight antennae• Two pairs of wings the same size and shape• More and finer veins in wings create a lace-like appearance• Broad waist• Short legs

Flying Ant



Termite Swarmer





Bayer
Environmental Science

Product Use by Ant Type

Granules

Baits

	TopChoice	DeltaGard G	Maxforce FC Ant Killer Bait Gel	Maxforce Carpenter Ant Bait Gel	Maxforce Ant Killer Bait Stations	Maxforce FC Ant Killer Bait Stations	Maxforce Complete Granular Insect Bait	Maxforce Quantum Ant Bait	Maxforce FC Fire Ant Bait
Acrobat Ant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Argentine Ant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Big-Headed Ant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Carpenter Ants	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Crazy Ant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Ghost Ant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Little Black Ant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Odorous House Ant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Pavement Ant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Pharaoh Ant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Red Imported Fire Ant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Thief Ant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
White-Footed Ant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●



Bayer
Environmental Science

Product Use by Ant Type

Dusts

Residual Sprays

Foams

	Drione	DeltaDust®	Tempo 1% Dust	Temprid SC	Suspend SC	Tempo SC Ultra	Tempo Ultra WSP	Premise Foam
Acrobat Ant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Argentine Ant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Big-Headed Ant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Carpenter Ants	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Crazy Ant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Ghost Ant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Little Black Ant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Odorous House Ant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Pavement Ant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Pharaoh Ant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Red Imported Fire Ant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Thief Ant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
White-Footed Ant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● = This product
is recommended to
control this ant type.

● = Evaluate
situation to
determine whether
this product will
effectively control
this ant type.

● = This product
is not labeled to
control this ant type.

These are recommendations only; for definitive instructions, please consult the specific EPA-approved product label.



DeltaDust®
with DeltaGard

DeltaGard

Drione®

MAXFORCE®

PREMISE®

Suspend® SC
with DeltaGard

TEMPO®
ULTRA

TEMPRID™

topchoice™

**BACKED
by BAYER.**

Backed by Bayer is our pledge that with every Bayer pest management product you purchase, you also receive our ongoing commitment to help you build your business. From our industry-leading research and personalized technical support at every level to the most innovative, effective products, Bayer provides solutions that help your business thrive. For more information, call 1-800-331-2867 or visit BackedbyBayer.com.