



PEST IDENTIFICATION & TREATMENT

ANT SPECIES

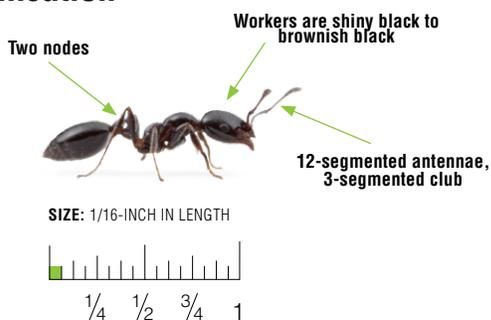
Little Black Ant Protocol



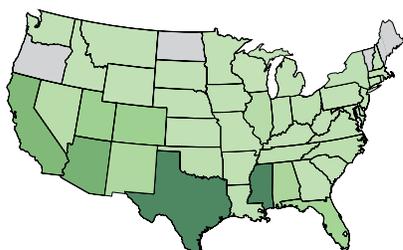
Understanding Little Black Ants

- Little black ants are native to North America, unlike their close relative, the pharaoh ant.
- The common name comes from its small size and shiny black color.
- Little black ants are polygyne, meaning they have multiple queens in each nest.
- Little black ants have a varied diet. Outdoors they will scavenge on other arthropods and tend honeydew-producing insects. Indoors they will feed on anything from honey to fruit.

Identification



Range



Not Reported Low Abundance Abundant

Data Sources: iNaturalist & iDigBio

Inspection

- Outdoors, little black ants make shallow nests in soil and beneath bark mulch, under rocks, rotting logs, decaying trees, near building foundations, sidewalks, driveways and parking lots.
- Although they generally nest outdoors, little black ants can nest indoors in wall voids, behind baseboards and under carpet.

Customer Communication

Setting appropriate expectations and communicating the importance of customer collaboration increases the likelihood of success. Be sure to communicate what to expect before and after the treatment and any conducive conditions that require remediation. Best results are seen when the technician and the customer work together. Below are some key things to communicate to the customer:

- For indoor control: Stress the importance of sanitation to your customers. Any type of food or food particles can attract ants. Recommend the customer store food in sealed containers.
- Encourage proper exclusion measures by caulking or sealing entry points.
- For outdoor control: Discuss the removal of plants that can attract ants; or control aphids, whiteflies and other honeydew-producing insects on plants in and around structures.
 - Trim trees and other landscape features away from the structure that serve as routes ants can use to enter buildings and homes.
 - Remove or temporarily move any materials or vegetation that provide harborage for ants. This includes large landscaping stones, pavers, leaf litter, older lumber and other debris.

Pre-Treatment

- Try to remove any alternative food or moisture sources ants might be foraging on. This will greatly enhance bait uptake and lead to better results.
- Use your inspection results to determine your treatment plan. Treatment should be based on nest location.
- Ensure all equipment is clean and in good working condition to avoid product contamination that could negatively impact results.
- Always read and follow label instructions and make sure you have all of the required PPE prior to treatment.



Treatment / Liquid Applications

■ **Treatment for little black ants nesting on the interior of structures:** For little black ants nesting indoors, apply Sumari® Insecticide at a dilution rate of 1 oz. per gallon of water in areas where ants have been active or found trailing. Key areas include under or around baseboards, wall voids, door casings, voids under cabinets, beneath carpeting, around dishwashers, washing machines and refrigerators.

- When little black ants are found nesting indoors in wall voids, colonies can be treated by injecting a concentrate, aerosol or dust.
- Locate hidden nests by placing an attractive food source like honey or syrup near foraging ants and follow trails back to nest sites.

■ **Treatment for little black ants nesting on the exterior and foraging/trailing into structures:**

- **Interior:** Little black ants will trail indoors in search of food and water, during extreme weather conditions or when colonies are very large. To control ants foraging indoors, apply Sumari® Insecticide as a spot or crack and crevice application at a dilution rate of 1 oz. per gallon of water. Key areas include around baseboards, doors, window frames, under sinks, around pipes and attic venting.
- **Exterior:** Controlling ants outside of the structure is key to preventing indoor infestations. Apply Sumari® Insecticide at a dilution rate of 1 oz. per gallon of water for residual control treatments around the perimeter of a structure. Key areas include entryways, trash bins, under logs and stones, in gardens and irrigated landscaping, in cavities of plants and trees, under loose bark, rotten wood and in soil. Use broadcast or spot and/or crack and crevice applications anywhere ants are found trailing. Curative or proactive broadcast treatments can be made to yards, lawns, fields, parks and landscaping.

■ **Treatment for little black ants found only on the exterior:**

For little black ants foraging or nesting in trash bins, under logs and stones, in gardens and irrigated landscaping, in cavities of plants and trees, under loose bark, rotten wood and in soil, apply Sumari® Insecticide as a proactive broadcast treatment, spot and/or crack and crevice application at a dilution rate of 1 oz. per gallon of water.

Treatment / Baiting Applications

■ **Treatment for little black ants nesting on the interior of structures (interior bait treatments only):** Apply Sumari® Ant Gel Bait in spots 1/8 inch in diameter or in lines 1/8 inch by 3 inches in length near ant trails. Apply bait in discreet areas such as underneath sinks and cabinets, dishwashers, baseboards or anywhere you see ants trailing.

■ **Treatment for exterior little black ant nest locations:**

- Bait placement on the interior of the structure to control little black ants should be avoided unless the nest is located on the interior.
- To bait outdoors, apply Sumari® Ant Gel Bait in spots 1/8 inch in diameter or in lines 1/8 inch by 3 inches in length anywhere you see ants trailing. Common areas include the base of trees, visual trails, weep holes and other entry points around the structure.

1/8-inch bait spot	1/8 x 3-inch bait line
	

Post-Treatment

- Re-inspect if ant activity has not ceased after 3-5 days. Make note of any continued activity or foraging, even if ants aren't found on the interior of a structure. Re-treat any areas with such activity to reduce the likelihood of re-infestation.

Tips and Tricks from the MGK Technical Department

Pay attention to direction. Look for trailing ants. If foragers are moving solid food away from the structure, focus your inspection outdoors. If foragers are moving solid food into the structure, focus on the interior or crawlspace.

Lure them out with food to find hidden nests. Locating trailing ants is critical. Have your customer pre-bait the ants before you arrive, if they are willing. Have them place a food source like honey, syrup, etc. in areas where they have seen ants (use a piece of wax paper for easy cleanup).

Ask the right questions. Customers can give vital information that will focus your inspection. When an ant colony is in a wall void or under the structure, foraging ants can find food in the structure even during a rain event. Ask if the activity stops when it is raining.

Ants can be picky. At some point, everyone has applied a bait that was ignored by trailing ants. One reason might be the colony fragment is not looking for food but is moving between nesting sites. Try several baits to determine which is most effective.



Products



Sumari® Insecticide

- Kills and controls ants, including multi-queen species, for up to three months
- Contains NyGuard® IGR insect growth regulator
- Dual modes of action
- For indoor and outdoor use, including outdoor broadcast
- No signal word
- Apply as an outdoor broadcast treatment up to four times per year at the low rate
- Convenient all-in-one product



Sumari® Ant Gel Bait

- Kills ants (excluding fire ants and carpenter ants)
- Easy to use
- Effective for up to 90 days (excluding fire, harvester, carpenter & pharaoh ants)



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