



## PEST IDENTIFICATION & TREATMENT

### ANT SPECIES

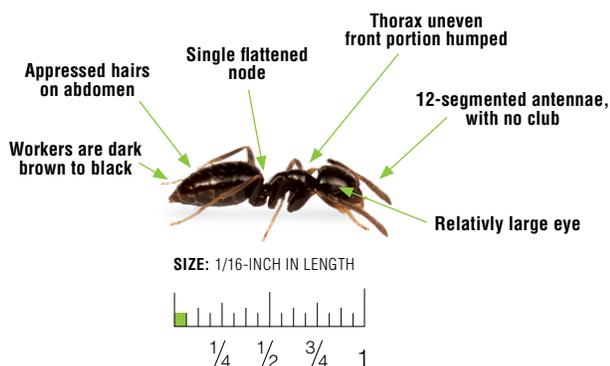
# Rover Ant Protocol



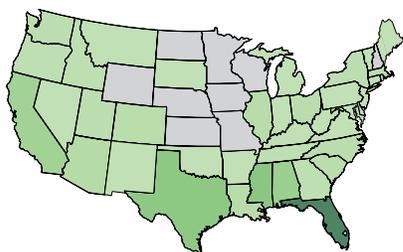
## Understanding Rover Ants

- Rover ants are a relatively new invasive ant, and very few studies have been conducted on their biology and ecology.
- Colonies are often small, numbering a few thousand workers. Colonies can be found near other invasive ants such as Argentine ants and odorous house ants.
- Rover ants typically prefer sugary liquids and will visit specialized nectar-secreting plant glands.
- Rover ants have high moisture requirements and will often trail indoors in search of water, especially bathrooms and kitchens.

## Identification



## Range



Not Reported Low Abundance Abundant

Data Sources: iNaturalist & iDigiBio

## Inspection

- Rover ants require high amounts of moisture. Pay attention to exterior moisture sources, especially in the Southwest. Inspect soil, at the bases of trees, in leaf litter, wood piles, mulch and beneath other various debris.
- Indoors, be sure to inspect underneath sinks, around dishwashers and washing machines, bathtubs, showers and potted plants.

## 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.
- For outdoor control: Discuss the removal of plants that can attract rover ants; or control aphids, whiteflies and other honeydew-producing insects on plants in and around structures. Let your customer know that there are a few things they can do:
  - 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.
  - Rover ants often nest in potted plants. Remove any infested plants and replace with fresh soil.

## 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 rover ants nesting on the interior of structures:** For ants nesting indoors, apply Sumari<sup>®</sup> Insecticide at a dilution rate of 1 oz. per gallon of water to areas where ants have been active or found trailing. Key areas include under or around baseboards, wall voids, door casings, voids under cabinets, around dishwashers, washing machines and refrigerators.
  - When rover 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 rover ants nesting on the exterior and foraging/trailing into structures:**
  - **Interior:** Rover ants will trail indoors in search of food and water or during extreme weather conditions. To control ants foraging indoors, apply Sumari<sup>®</sup> 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 frame, under sinks, around pipes and attic venting.
  - **Exterior:** Apply Sumari<sup>®</sup> 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, doors and windows, utility entry points, behind siding, weep holes, eaves, around lights and garbage cans. 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 rover ants found only on the exterior:** For ants foraging/nesting in lawns in soil, at bases of trees, in leaf litter, wood piles, mulch, and beneath other various debris, apply Sumari<sup>®</sup> Insecticide as a proactive broadcast treatment, spot and/or crack and crevice application. Apply Sumari<sup>®</sup> Insecticide at a dilution rate of 1 oz. per gallon of water directly to nests or trails.

## Treatment / Baiting Applications

- **Interior treatment for rover ants nesting in structures (interior bait treatments only):** Apply Sumari<sup>®</sup> 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, toilets and potted plants or anywhere you see ants trailing.
- **Treatment for exterior rover ant nest locations:**
  - Bait placement on the interior of the structure to control rover ants should be avoided unless the nest is located on the interior.
  - To bait outdoors, apply Sumari<sup>®</sup> 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-inches 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

**Look for moisture.** Rover ants are critically dependent on man-made sources of moisture, especially in the arid Southwest. Look for drip irrigation lines or sprinklers, on the interior of a structure and in potted plants.

**Don't lure them inside if they aren't there.** When a colony is nesting on the exterior of the structure it is important to limit the food sources on the interior, including the use of baits.

**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.

**Attract-and-kill.** Enhance performance of a liquid concentrate like Sumari<sup>®</sup> Insecticide by baiting in the treated area. This will increase the number of ants that contact the treated surface, and the combination of bait and non-repellent will reach deep into the colony.

**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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