



PEST IDENTIFICATION & TREATMENT



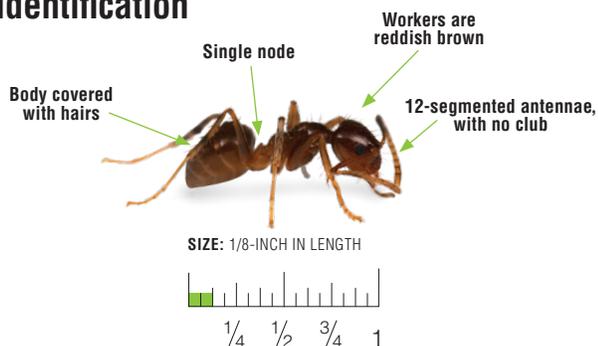
ANT SPECIES

Tawny Crazy Ant (TCA) Protocol

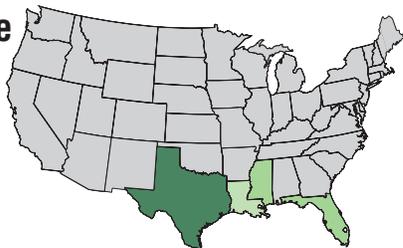
Understanding Tawny Crazy Ants

- TCAs are an extremely problematic pest ant among states that border the Gulf of Mexico, particularly Florida and Texas.
- TCA colonies contain many queens, nesting sites and can number in the millions to tens of millions per colony.
- Although they do not sting, TCAs invade in massive numbers and kill small poultry such as chickens and quail.
- While trailing ants can be observed, many TCAs move through the environment in an apparently disorganized, erratic manner.
- Because of their unique biology, TCAs are difficult to control with traditional ant management strategies.

Identification



Range



Not Reported Low Abundance Abundant

Data Sources: iNaturalist & iDigBio

Inspection

- You usually don't have to look, they will find you!
- Outdoor nests can be found under or within virtually any object or void in environments which they occur.
 - Inspect stumps, soil, concrete, rocks, large landscape stones, pavers, potted plants and any object that retains moisture.
- While they generally don't nest indoors, TCAs will forage indoors when their numbers are high.

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. Seal any entry points to limit access.
- For outdoor control: TCAs often overrun areas where they infest, and while customers should be informed that there is often little that can be done outside of chemical control, let them know that there are a few things they can do:
 - Trim trees and other landscape features that serve as routes that 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

- Use your inspection results to determine your treatment plan. Treatment should be based on nest location.
- When large areas need to be treated, make sure you have enough material to treat the entire infested area.
- 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 TCAs nesting on the interior of structures:**
Although rare, TCAs will sometimes trail indoors. For ants trailing or temporarily 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, around dishwashers, washing machines and refrigerators.
- **Treatment for TCAs nesting on the exterior and foraging/trailing into structures:**
 - **Interior:** TCAs will trail indoors in search of food and water, during extreme weather conditions or when colonies become extremely 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 frame, under sinks, around pipes and attic venting.
 - **Exterior:** To provide immediate knockdown of foraging workers and to prevent ants from entering structures, a combination of fast-acting and long residual repellent product is recommended around the perimeter of the structure. Apply Onslaught® FastCap Microencapsulated Insecticide or OneGuard® Multi MoA Concentrate (at a dilution rate of 1 oz. or 2 oz. per gallon of water respectively) around the perimeter of the structure (between 5-20 feet away from the structure). Key areas include entryways, doors and windows, utility entry points, behind siding, weep holes, eaves and around lights and garbage cans. To reduce breeding populations further away from the structure, apply Sumari® Insecticide as a broadcast treatment, at a dilution rate of 1 oz. per gallon of water, using a backpack mist blower, power sprayer, or similarly large application equipment. Treat as far away as necessary within the infested property.
- **Treatment for TCAs found only on the exterior:** See above description of exterior treatment.

Treatment / Baiting Applications

- **Treatment for TCAs 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, toilets and potted plants, or anywhere you see ants trailing.
- **Treatment for exterior TCA nest locations:**
 - Bait placement on the interior of the structure to control TCAs 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 7-14 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

Start with the exterior. TCAs almost always nest outdoors. Begin your inspection on the exterior. Bait outside near entry points to draw ants back outside and keep them from entering. If using, apply non-repellent liquid residual before baiting to reduce bait aversion.

Check the trees. TCAs are notorious for tending honeydew-producing insects like aphids and scales. Treat the soil around the bases of citrus trees, crepe myrtles, hibiscus, rose bushes, oleander, milkweeds, oak, willow, elm, maple and pine trees. Use gel baits to provide an easily accessible food source.

Attract-and-kill. Enhance performance of a liquid concentrate like Sumari® 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.

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.

Forget the paradigm "Kill the queen, kill the colony." With highly polygyne species, there can be hundreds of queens across multiple nests. Affect the most ants possible within the first few days of treatment by using baits and transferable non-repellents together.

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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