

Red Imported Fire Ants

General Awareness

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Have you seen fire ants?



CS-8511-07/18

Report suspect ants to Biosecurity Queensland

13 25 23

daf.qld.gov.au/fireants



Queensland
Government

Have you seen fire ants?



Call 13 25 23



Queensland
Government

Why be part of the ant hunt?

Although small, red imported fire ants are one of the worst invasive species to reach Australia's shores.

Fire ants can ruin our lifestyle and significantly impact our environment. They inflict painful stings and could restrict our everyday activities such as barbecues, picnics and sporting events.

We've been working hard to contain the area of infestation, but we need your help. Check your property and let us know if you've found anything suspicious. The successful eradication of fire ants in South East Queensland depends on it.

A serious threat

Fire ants pose a serious threat to our way of life, economy and environment.

Fire ants can:

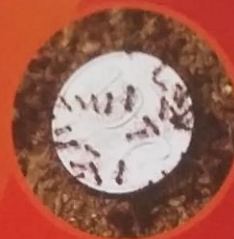
- inflict painful stings that can lead to anaphylactic shock and death
- blind and kill pets and other animals
- displace and kill some of Australia's unique native species
- cause the cancellation of sporting and community events and make backyards and parks unusable
- destroy crops and reduce yield by up to 60%.



How to identify fire ants

Size and colour

- Small (2–6 mm)
- Variety of sizes in the one nest
- Coppery brown with a darker abdomen



Nests

- No visible entry holes
- Look like mounds of loose dirt
- Vary in size
- May be found under logs, rocks and gardening materials



When checking a nest for fire ants, don't touch the nest with any part of your body. Just gently poke the nest with a stick and observe the ants that come out. Be careful, as fire ants are aggressive and will swarm when disturbed.

Top 5 places to check

Residential properties

1. Lawns
2. Footpaths
3. Garden beds
4. Taps
5. Utility pits

Rural properties

1. Dams
2. Edges of cultivated land
3. Crop land post-harvest
4. Fence lines
5. Piles of organic matter



Fire ant carriers

Do you move soil, mulch, manure, baled hay, straw, turf or potted plants?

These are high-risk fire ant carriers that could spread fire ants.

There are three fire ant biosecurity zones in Queensland that restrict the movement of these materials, and specific procedures must be followed when moving or storing these materials within each zone—visit daf.qld.gov.au/fireants for more information.

If you are unable to comply with these procedures, you may require a biosecurity instrument permit.

Fire ant carrier movement restrictions	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3
Moving soil	All soil movement requires a biosecurity instrument permit unless:		
	Soil remains in Zone 1	Soil remains in Zone 2 or is moved to Zone 1	Soil remains in Zone 3
	Soil is moved to a waste facility within Zone 1 or Zone 2		Soil is moved to a waste facility within Zone 3
Moving mulch, manure, baled hay or straw, potted plants or turf	All mulch, manure, baled hay or straw, potted plants or turf movement requires a biosecurity instrument permit unless:		
	Procedures are followed as outlined in the Biosecurity Regulation 2016, or the material is moved within 24 hours of being on the property		
	The material is moved to a waste facility within Zone 1 or Zone 2	The material is moved to a waste facility within Zone 3	
Moving other fire ant carriers (e.g. mining/quarrying product/by-products, compost)	All other fire ant carrier movement requires a biosecurity instrument permit unless:		
	The material is moved within 24 hours of being on the property		
	The material is moved to a waste facility within Zone 1 or Zone 2	The material is moved to a waste facility within Zone 3	

Your responsibility

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, all Queenslanders have a general biosecurity obligation to manage biosecurity risks under their control. For fire ants, that means you need to:

- know what fire ants look like
- know the materials they can be moved in
- know if you live or work in a biosecurity zone
- follow movement controls
- inspect materials for ant activity
- clean equipment used with fire ant carriers.

Biosecurity Queensland provides **training** to help you identify fire ants and understand movement control requirements.

More information

For more information or to report suspect ants:

- visit daf.qld.gov.au/fireants

or

- call **13 25 23**.

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