

IMPORTED FIRE ANT (IFA)



Infestation

IFAs crawling on wood



Injury

Blisters from IFA stings covering a victim's arm

One-eighth to one-quarter
of an inch long



Reddish-brown
or black color

Highly aggressive
when disturbed

Adult

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Ants that are one-eighth to one-quarter of an inch long and reddish-brown or black
- Ants that respond rapidly and aggressively when disturbed (they clamp onto their victims with powerful jaws and sting repeatedly while injecting painful venom)
- Hard, mound-shaped nests that can get quite large, posing risks to field workers and farm equipment



IFA nests near outdoor electrical equipment

THE HARM IT CAUSES

IFAs will feed on the buds and fruits of numerous crop plants, especially corn, soybean, okra, and citrus. They can also girdle young trees. Large nests located in fields interfere with and damage equipment during cultivation and harvesting. IFAs respond rapidly and aggressively to disturbances, and ant attacks inhibit field-worker activities. A single fire ant can sting its target repeatedly; young and newborn animals are especially susceptible to the stings' venom.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- **Find out** if you're in an IFA quarantine area. Visit www.aphis.usda.gov, type "zip code" into the search box, and click the "Go" button.
- **Know the restrictions** on baled hay, soil, plants, soil-moving equipment, and other items moving out of IFA quarantine areas. Visit www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/fireants for this information.
- **Report any sightings** of this pest to your local Extension office (use the map at www.nifa.usda.gov/Extension).

For more information, visit:

HUNGRYPESTS.COM



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Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service