

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
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Subject: APHIS Imported Fire Ant Quarantine Adds Two Additional Bait Treatments and Modifies Drench Application Technique for Treatment of Balled-and-Burlapped Nursery Stock

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is notifying stakeholders that two additional insecticidal baits—abamectin and metaflumizone—have been added to Plant Protection and Quarantine’s (PPQ) *Treatment Manual* in the Domestic Treatments, Imported Fire Ant section (D-301-81-10). These baits will provide a broader range of treatment options for both field grown nursery stock and for nurseries that produce containerized plants (7 *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) 301.81-11). APHIS is taking this action to provide nursery producers with an alternative treatment for plants that are balled or in containers.

The *Treatment Manual* has also been revised to modify the manner in which a chlorpyrifos drench can be applied for balled-and-burlapped nursery stock. The prior method involved drenching nursery stock twice a day for three consecutive days. The modified method involves drenching twice a day while rotating or flipping the root ball between drench applications to ensure complete coverage. This shortens the treatment period from three days to one day, but does not change the application rate or the certification period. These revisions to the *Treatment Manual* can be found at:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/ports/downloads/treatment.pdf

Imported fire ants (IFA) were introduced into the United States from South America in the early 1900s. Today, the ants infest more than 367 million acres in 14 states and Puerto Rico. IFA damage crops, agricultural equipment, and even affect wildlife. APHIS works to prevent the artificial (human-assisted) spread of IFA by enforcing the federal quarantine (7 CFR 301.81) and works with state cooperators to regulate high risk commodities, such as nursery stock, hay and soil-moving equipment.

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/s/

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