



The Texas Two-Step Method

Some Common Insecticides for Controlling Fire Ants

See the Texas Two-Step Method brochure (L-5070) for more detailed information.

Baits

- Broadcasting a bait over your entire yard/pasture is the first step in controlling fire ants.
- Baits are slow-acting and require weeks to months to achieve 80% to 90% control.
- Baits have much lower rates of active ingredients and so introduce fewer chemicals into the environment.
- With baits' slower rate of action, fire ants re-invade more slowly than with contact insecticides.
- Because ingestion of these products is required, baits primarily target fire ants, not other beneficial insects.

For more information about managing fire ants, visit our Web site at <http://fireant.tamu.edu>.

Active Ingredient	Trade Names	Comments
hydramethylnon	Amdro®, Combat® Ant Killer Granuals	Reduces ant mounds by 80% to 90% in 2-6 weeks following broadcast application. Can eliminate individual mounds in 2-7 days. Ideal for small yards. Amdro® is cleared for application to pastures**.
abamectin	Ascend®, Varsity®	Provides maximum suppression slower than hydramethylnon but faster than fenoxycarb. Mostly used by insect control professionals. Can be used to treat individual mounds.
fenoxycarb	Award®, Logic®, Hi-Yield® Fire Ant Bait	Provides maximum suppression 2-6 months following application. This slower-acting bait is superior for controlling ants in areas larger than an acre. Logic® is registered for use in horse pastures.
methoprene	Extinguish®	This slower-acting bait is superb for controlling ants in larger areas. Extinguish® is cleared for use in field crops and pastures**.
pyriproxyfen	Distance®, Spectracide® Fire Ant Bait	Provides maximum suppression 2-6 months following application. This slower-acting bait is superior for controlling ants in large areas.

**Note specific crop and pasture uses on label.

Contact Insecticides

- Step two in controlling fire ants is to treat individual, nuisance mounds located next to your house foundation or in high-traffic areas.

- To treat these mounds, you can use contact insecticides, some of the faster-acting baits, or organic methods such as boiling water.

- Unlike baits, contact insecticides are more toxic, kill only one colony at a time, are formulated to kill insects upon direct contact, and kill or affect almost all insects that come into contact with the product or treated area.

Respect Our Environment!

- Never use gasoline or other petroleum products for fire ant control. Although gasoline kills fire ants, it is extremely flammable and dangerous—both to you and to the environment.

- Don't leave insecticide granules on streets or sidewalks after application, as these will wash into storm sewers and streams.

- Follow label directions when disposing of extra pesticides and containers. Never pour leftovers down the drain. This can contaminate streams and endanger aquatic life. Use all insecticides before discarding the containers.

Type/ Active Ingredient	Trade Names	Comments
Dust:		
acephate	Ortho® Ant Stop Fire Ant Killer, Orthene®, Surrender®	Works well without water.
Liquid:		
carbaryl	GardenTech® Sevin Concentrate	Use 1 to 2 gallons of pesticide mixture per mound for good penetration into nest. Most products kill ants in several hours to several days. A few products will kill ants in seconds or minutes.
chlorpyrifos	Dursban®, many trade names	
diazinon	diazinon, many trade names	
permethrin	Spectracide PRO, Spectracide 3X	
Granular:		
chlorpyrifos	Green Light® Fire Ant Killer II	Granular products work best when followed by 1 to 2 gallons of water applied to each mound. A watering can with a sprinkler attachment will avoid washing granules off the mound.
diazinon	Spectracide®, Ortho® Fire Ant Killer Granules, Hi-Yield® Ant Killer Granules	
deltamethrin	Vikor® Fire Ant Killer	
permethrin	Spectracide® Ant Shield	

Many other products are available for fire ant control. For more information, visit our Web site at <http://fireant.tamu.edu>.

Mention of a trademark or a proprietary product does not constitute a guarantee or a warranty of the product by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and does not imply its approval to the exclusion of other products that also may be suitable. Educational programs of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin.