



## Fireants

Fireants do not bite; they sting like wasps and bees. They hold on with their mouthparts and inject venom into skin through a smooth - not barbed - stinger. They are social insects and live in colonies which may have up to 200,000 to 400,000 workers.

A fireant colony consists of three types of ants - workers, males, and queens. **They usually swarm in late spring and summer, but a swarm can occur anytime in the year.**

Past attempts of extinction have done little to inhibit the tremendous march of these persistent pests. Most of these programs actually helped the fireants by wiping out other species of ants that competed with the fireants for food. Any bait designed to kill fireants must contain the perfect mixture of a carrier, attractants, and a killing agent or insecticide. This killing agent cannot be too strong. If a worker ant detects an insecticide in its food (bait), the food will be rejected by the entire colony.

The bait is distributed to the other workers by regurgitating liquids (**hope you are not eating lunch while you are reading**), who (in turn) feed 10 or more workers, who feed other workers - eventually reaching the queen and her workers.

**Nations Residential Service** pest coverage contractors treat fireants by spraying inside the house. They use bait or spray on the outside, depending on the season. During the summer they use bait, as workers will carry bait back to the queen, causing the mound to die. If you want your home and yard treated, please call for a quote.