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If ants are such busy workers, how come they find time to go to all the picnics?



Everyone knows the least welcome guests during mealtime are ants. Though small in size, ants can pose a big problem around your home and are a leading pest issue in residential spaces.

Among dozens of species, there are several commonly found types of invasive ants in Texas: red imported fire ants (RIFA), southern fire ants, crazy ants (discovered in Houston in 2002) and Argentine ants.

When trying to manage an ant infestation, identifying what type of ant you have can help you understand their behavior and how to eliminate them from your home.

Red imported fire ants are a major economic pest, costing the state of Texas \$1.2 billion annually.

RIFAs pose a serious health threat to both plants and animals.

Though a native species, southern fire ants play second fiddle to RIFA and are increasingly becoming ousted by the more aggressive RIFA counterpart. Southern fire ants usually nest in loose soil or structural masonry or woodwork, but can also be found under boards or stones, near grass clusters, in concrete cracks, or under structures.

Crazy ants are an invasive species that can overrun landscapes with their very large populations. They damage crops, and can reduce property values, becoming a significant nuisance for both homeowners and businesses.

Argentine ants also form sizable colonies and are commonly found in landscape features such as potted plants and walkway stones. They invade homes through cracks and other spaces in search of food or water. And unlike other bugs and insects, the Argentine ant has no known natural enemies, so populations must be controlled either culturally or chemically.

If you spot ants in or around your home, please give us a call. We will work to identify the species and provide a recommendation for service. Remember, just because ants are small doesn't mean they can't create a big problem for your home or business.

Tiny terrors: How can I keep ants from invading my home or business?

- Keep your home or business environment clean. Ants feed on sugars, proteins and virtually anything else. Make sure counters are wiped clean and foods are stored in airtight containers. Lunch or breakrooms should be cleaned daily.
- Modify the habitat. Keep mulch, leaf litter and vegetation 10-12 inches from the foundation of your home or building. Be sure to store piles of firewood, bricks, and stones away from your house or building.
- Remove sources of water. Fix leaky pipes and remove standing water around your home or building.
- Eliminate shelter sources. Spaces in walls and cupboards are attractive ant habitats. Find and seal any cracks or openings around your home or building that could provide an entry point.
- Trim branches. Just as wood piles can pose a great habitat for ants, be sure to trim any branches or growth hanging over your house or building. A branch touching the roof or windowsill can provide a bridge to an ant colony's new home. discomfort.

Send those ants marching! Contact us at **210-653-4250** or **LPSinfo@LonestarPest Solutions.com** to learn how we can provide solutions to alleviate pests around your home or business.



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