



PEST IDENTIFICATION & TREATMENT

ANT SPECIES

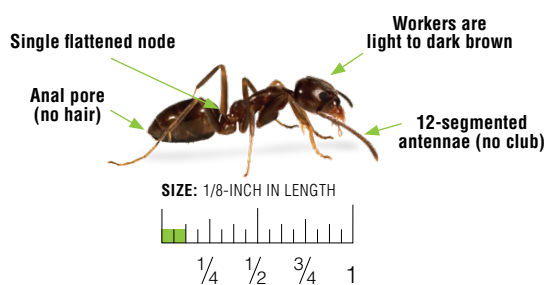
Argentine Ant Protocol



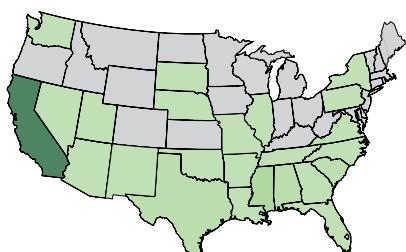
Understanding Argentine Ants

- Argentine ant colonies have many queens, up to 17 per 1,000 workers. Queens can often be seen foraging with worker ants and are often mistaken for soldiers.
- Argentine ant workers can produce new queens from existing eggs and larvae. Even queenless colony fragments can become fully functional colonies.
- Argentine ants require soil contact and almost exclusively nest outdoors in soil, under stones or debris, around the bases of trees, or in old tree stumps.
- Argentine ants are notorious farmers of aphids and scale insects, which provide workers with honeydew, a sugary secretion that keeps colonies fueled during the spring and summer.
- Foraging workers can be found trailing indoors in search of food, water and/or shelter almost year-round, although they are most commonly reported during the spring and summer months.

Identification



Range



Not Reported Low Abundance Abundant

Data Sources: iNaturalist & iDigBio

Inspection

- Locating nests is the key to control; keep in mind that Argentine ants typically have multiple nest locations around a structure.
- Outdoor nests can be found near sources of moisture or food.
 - Look in soil, under stones or debris, beneath bark mulch, around the bases of trees, or in old tree stumps.
 - Identify sources of moisture such as sprinklers, drip irrigation lines, fountains and other water features, pools, or leaky pipes. Inspect these areas for foraging ants.
 - Look for plants that support aphids and scale insects, such as citrus trees, crepe myrtles, hibiscus, rose bushes, oleander, milkweeds, oak, willow, elm, maple and pine trees.
- Although established indoor nests are rare, look for trailing ants underneath kitchen and bathroom sinks, under or inside dishwashers, washing machines, around bathtubs, or any other interior sources of moisture.

Customer Communication

Setting appropriate expectations and communicating the importance of customer collaboration increases the likelihood of success. Be sure to communicate what to expect before and after the treatment and any conducive conditions that require remediation. Best results are seen when the technician and the customer work together. Below are some key things to communicate to the customer:

- For indoor control: Stress the importance of sanitation to your customers. Any type of food or food particles can attract and provide food for ants. Recommend the customer store food in sealed containers.
- For outdoor control: Discuss the removal of plants that can attract ants; or control aphids, whiteflies and other honeydew-producing insects on plants in and around structures. Let your customer know that there are a few things they can do:
 - Trim trees and other landscape features that serve as routes ants can use to enter buildings and homes.
 - Remove any materials or vegetation that are serving as nesting sites, or temporarily move any materials or vegetation that provide harborage for ants. This includes large landscaping stones, pavers, leaf litter, older lumber and other debris.



Pre-Treatment

- Use your inspection results to determine your treatment plan. Treatment should be based on nest location.
- Ensure all equipment is clean and in good working condition to avoid product contamination that could negatively impact results.
- Always read and follow label instructions and make sure you have all of the required PPE prior to treatment.

Treatment / Liquid Applications

- **Treatment for Argentine ants nesting on the interior of structures:** Although rare, Argentine ants will occasionally nest indoors. For ants nesting indoors, apply Sumari® Insecticide at a dilution rate of 1 oz. per gallon of water to areas where ants have been active or found trailing. Key areas include under or around baseboards, wall voids, door casings, voids under cabinets, around dishwashers, washing machines and refrigerators.
- **Treatment for Argentine ants nesting on the exterior and foraging/trailing into structures:**
 - **Interior:** Argentine ants will trail indoors in search of food and water or during extreme weather conditions. To control ants foraging indoors, apply Sumari® Insecticide as a spot or crack and crevice application at a dilution rate of 1 oz. per gallon of water. Key areas include around baseboards, doors, window frames, under sinks, around pipes and attic venting.
 - **Exterior:** Most interior infestations of Argentine ants can be traced to exterior colonies, and controlling these colonies is key to preventing indoor infestations. Apply Sumari® Insecticide at a dilution rate of 1 oz. per gallon of water for residual control treatments around the perimeter of a structure. Key areas include entryways, doors and windows, utility entry points, behind siding, weep holes, eaves and around lights and garbage cans. Use broadcast or spot and/or crack and crevice applications anywhere ants are found trailing. Curative or proactive broadcast treatments can be made to yards, lawns, fields, parks, cemeteries and landscaping.
- **Treatment for Argentine ants found only on the exterior:** To treat nests found in soil, under stones or debris, around the bases of trees, or in old tree stumps, apply Sumari® Insecticide as a proactive broadcast treatment or spot and/or crack and crevice application at a dilution rate of 1 oz. per gallon of water directly to nests or trails.

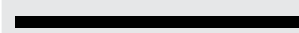
Treatment / Baiting Applications

- **Treatment for Argentine ants nesting on the interior of structures (interior bait treatments only):** Apply Sumari® Ant Gel Bait in spots 1/8 inch in diameter or in lines 1/8 inch by 3 inches in length near ant trails. Apply bait in discreet areas such as underneath sinks and cabinets, dishwashers, toilets, and potted plants or anywhere you see ants trailing.
- **Treatment for exterior Argentine ant nest locations:**
 - Bait placement on the interior of the structure to control Argentine ants should be avoided unless the nest is located on the interior.
 - To bait outdoors, apply Sumari® Ant Gel Bait in spots 1/8 inch in diameter or in lines 1/8 inch by 3 inches in length anywhere you see ants trailing. Common areas include the base of trees, visual trails, weep holes and other entry points around the structure.

1/8-inch bait spot



1/8 x 3-inch bait line



Post-Treatment

- Re-inspect if ant activity has not ceased after 3-5 days. Make note of any continued activity or foraging, even if ants aren't found on the interior of a structure. Re-treat any areas with such activity to reduce the likelihood of re-infestation.

Tips and Tricks from the MGK Technical Department

Pay attention to direction and start with the exterior. Argentine ants almost always nest in soil. Begin your inspection on the exterior. Bait outside near entry points to draw ants back outside and keep ants from entering. If using, apply non-repellent liquid residual before baiting to reduce bait aversion.

Check the trees. Argentine ants are notorious for tending honeydew-producing insects like aphids and scales. Treat the soil around the bases of citrus trees, crepe myrtles, hibiscus, rose bushes, oleander, milkweeds, oak, willow, elm, maple and pine trees. Use gel baits to provide an easily accessible food source.

Attract-and-kill. Enhance performance of a liquid concentrate like Sumari® Insecticide by baiting in the treated area. This will increase the number of ants that contact the treated surface, and the combination of bait and non-repellent will reach deep into the colony.

Don't lure them inside if they aren't there. When a colony is nesting on the exterior of the structure it is important to limit the food sources on the interior, including the use of baits.

Forget the paradigm "Kill the queen, kill the colony." With highly polygyne species, there can be hundreds of queens across multiple nests. Affect the most ants possible within the first few days of treatment by using baits and transferable non-repellents together.

If one bait doesn't work, try a different one. Ants can be picky. At some point everyone has applied a bait that was ignored by Argentine ants. One reason might be the colony fragment is not looking for food but is moving between nesting sites. Try several baits to determine which is most effective.



Products



Sumari® Insecticide

- Kills and controls ants, including multi-queen species, for up to three months
- Contains NyGuard® IGR insect growth regulator
- Dual modes of action
- For indoor and outdoor use, including outdoor broadcast
- No signal word
- Apply as an outdoor broadcast treatment up to four times per year at the low rate
- Convenient all-in-one product



Sumari® Ant Gel Bait

- Kills ants (excluding fire ants and carpenter ants)
- Easy to use
- Effective for up to 90 days (excluding fire, harvester, carpenter & pharaoh ants)



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