

The Latest Broadcast on Fire Ant Control Products

Dr. Paul R Nester, Extension Program Specialist - IPM - Houston Metro Area
For more information see our web site, <http://fireant.tamu.edu> - Updated 1/20/2012

Fire Ant Baits (broadcast applications unless specified as single mound only)

Agricultural Lands (*grazed, hayed, cropped, orchards, gardens, etc.*). Read label thoroughly for specific uses.

Amdro Pro (0.73% hydramethylnon) - May be applied to grass forage (pasture and rangeland) for the control of fire ants in some southern states. Do not cut and bale hay from pastures and rangeland until 7 days after the bait application is made. Full effect of the product on the ants takes about 3-6 weeks.

Clinch (0.011% abamectin) - Speed of control similar to Amdro Pro, but label is more restrictive than Amdro Pro. Controls fire ants in citrus, almonds, walnuts, potatoes, around barns and equipment, and around chicken houses. Do not use in pastures or rangeland grazed by cattle, sheep, or other domestic animals (including horses), or around chicken houses where birds are allowed outdoor range.

Esteem (0.5% pyriproxyfen) - Esteem can be used in hay pastures or with livestock used for food or feed production. Esteem may also be used in select vegetables, and tree or vine fruits, but refer to the label for specifics. Relatively slow, 1-3 months applied in spring, 3-6 months in fall.

Extinguish (0.5% methoprene) - Labeled for use almost anywhere. The active ingredient (methoprene) is very slow to work; usually 1-3 months if applied in the spring and, 3-6 months if applied in the fall. Full effect of the product varies with reinvasion pressure; one application per year is usually sufficient.

Extinguish + Amdro Pro Hopper Blend - mix 0.75 lb of each individually available product (50:50 hopper blend) applied at 1.5 lbs/acre total. Gives speed of control of Amdro Pro and the duration of control of Extinguish at no extra cost. Similar restrictions for grass forage as Amdro Pro. For a discussion on hopper blends please see the Texas AgriLife Extension Service Publication B-6099, Broadcast Baits for Fire Ant Control (<http://agrilifebookstore.org>)

Extinguish Plus (0.25% s-methoprene + 0.36% hydramethylnon) - the same ingredients as used in the hopper blend of Amdro Pro + Extinguish but sold as a single product. Extinguish Plus may be applied to grass forage (pastures and rangeland) for the control of fire ants in some southern states. Do not cut and bale hay from pastures and rangeland until 7 days after the bait application is made. Label more limited than Extinguish.

Urban areas or Non-Food Producing Lands. Read label thoroughly for specific uses.

Advion (0.045% indoxacarb) - Professional version. 90% or better control in 3-7 days with foraging suppression in 12-48 hours. Urban use only. Available only at specialty products stores.

Amdro (0.73% hydramethylnon) - labeled for use in urban as well as non-crop areas. Not to be confused with Amdro Pro. May be used in corrals and other animal holding areas, NOT for use in hay pastures or where livestock used for food or feed production is grazed. Refer to label for specifics. Full effect of the product on the ants takes 3-6 weeks.

Amdro Fire Strike (0.036% hydramethylnon + 0.0172% s-methoprene) - the same ingredients as Extinguish Plus, but lower concentration, in a single package formulated for homeowner that can be applied through a regular fertilizer spreader at 5 lb per 5,000 – 10,000 sq ft. May be used in corrals and other animal holding areas, NOT for use in hay pastures or where livestock used for food or feed production is grazed. Refer to label for specifics.

Amdro Fire Strike Mound Treatment (0.36% hydramethylnon + 0.25% s-methoprene) - the same ingredients as Extinguish Plus in a single package for homeowner for application to individual mounds at 2-5 level tablespoons/mound. Not to exceed 2 lb/acre. May be used in corrals and other animal holding areas, NOT for use in hay pastures or where livestock used for food or feed production is grazed. Refer to label for specifics.

Amdro Yard Treatment (0.036% hydramethylnon) - version of Amdro that can be applied through a regular fertilizer spreader at 21 lbs/acre. Low concentrated high volume bait. May be used in corrals and other animal holding areas, NOT for use in hay pastures or where livestock used for food or feed production is grazed. Refer to label for specifics. Full effect of the product on the ants takes 4 weeks. Not for single mound treatments.

Ascend/Varsity (0.011% abamectin) - Speed of control similar to Amdro, but label is more restrictive than Amdro. Hard to find. Available only at specialty products stores.

Award (1% fenoxycarb) - Originally called "Logic" but all uses are now on the Award label. The active ingredient (fenoxycarb) is very slow to work. NOT for use in hay pastures or where livestock used for food or feed production is grazed but may be used in horse pastures.

Distance (0.5% pyriproxyfen) - Distance may be used on turf in residential/domestic sites, institutional sites, uncultivated non-agricultural areas, or on indoor and outdoor container or field grown ornamentals in commercial nurseries. Refer to the label for specifics. Relatively slow, 1-3 months applied in spring, 3-6 months in fall.

Fire ant baits con't:

MaxForce FC (0.00015% fipronil) – Labeled for use in most urban areas. Speed of control similar to Amdro, but label is more restrictive than Amdro. Available only at specialty products stores.

ProBait (0.73% hydramethylnon) - labeled for use in urban as well as non-crop areas. May be used in corrals and other animal holding areas, NOT for use in hay pastures or where livestock used for food or feed production is grazed. Refer to label for specifics. Works in 3-6 weeks. Available only at specialty products stores.

Spectracide® Fire Ant Killer Plus Preventer Bait Once & Done!™ (0.016% indoxacarb), – Retail version of indoxacarb fire ant bait but lower concentration. High volume application low concentrated product. Same active ingredient as Advion. Two to three applications per year usually needed with Spectracide product.

Spinosad granular bait products (also called Conserve, 0.015% spinosad) - Available under Green Light, Fertlome, Southern Ag product line. Green Light product is certified organic by OMRI meaning it is approved for use in organic gardens, and other gardens less than one acre in size. Single mound treatments in rangeland and permanent pastures are allowed with Fertlome product. May require additional applications in 4-6 weeks.

Contact Insecticides – short list * Always read label thoroughly before using

D-limonene containing products (various) - D-limonene is an extract of citrus peels that has contact activity on certain insect pests, including fire ants. Can be found in several mound drench products (e.g., Orange Guard *Fire Ant Control*). Organic formulations will be OMRI certified.

Organophosphates (acephate) - These products interfere with nerve cell transmission (cholinesterase inhibitor). They are relatively quick-killing and are formulated as aerosols, liquids, dusts (Ortho® Orthene® Fire Ant Killer or Surrender Fire Ant Killer) or granules. They can be applied as mound treatments or surface treatment. Follow label directions.

Pyrethrins + Diatomaceous Earth products (various) - Pyrethrins (0.2% African daisy extract), Diatomaceous Earth (82.9% silicon dioxide), Piperonyl Butoxide (1.0% synthetic sassafras oil). Usually a powder that can be applied dry or wet. This type of product is available from Diatect (Results Fire Ant Killer) or Organic Solutions (Multipurpose Insecticide).

Pyrethroids (Over 'n Out Granules, Ortho Max, Bayer Lawn and Garden, DeltaGard, Talstar, Cyonara L/P etc.) and other's - Use as directed to suppress foragers, but may not kill colony. Multiple applications may be necessary. Uses a lot of insecticide and populations of other beneficial insects may be affected as opposed to the long residual fipronil granule product (TopChoice or Taurus G) which are applied at sub-lethal rates and effects on other insects are minimal.

Sevin XLR Plus (47% carbaryl) - For pasture fire ant mound drench, 1.5 quarts/100 gal.

Spinosad (0.5% liquid) - considered all natural or “organic.” Has a fire ant mound drench statement on label. Available from Green Light or Fertlome. Green Light product is certified organic by OMRI meaning it is approved for use in organic gardens. Spinosad is a biopesticide produced through commercial culture of a soil-born microbe that produces metabolites toxic to certain insects. These metabolites are harvested and formulated as an insecticide, so the final product contains no living microbes.

Topchoice® Insecticide or Taurus™ G insecticide granules (0.0143% fipronil) - These products are not baits but act about as fast as Amdro fire ant bait, but VERY long true residual activity. May observe good control for over a year, particularly on clay soils. Expensive (\$300-\$450/43,560 square feet or 1 acre for 1 application) when compared to the use of fire ant baits (\$10-\$25/43,560 square feet or 1 acre for one application of fire ant bait, 2 applications of bait per year are recommended). Use in high traffic areas or where long term control is needed. No agricultural uses. The Topchoice or Taurus G product is not available through usual retail outlets.

See also: http://www.extension.org/pages/Fire_Ant_Insecticides_for_use_in_Urban_Areas
or ANR-0175 at www.aces.edu