

The Economic Impact of Fire Ants on Metroplexes of Texas

Texas

Texas A&M University
Dept. of Agricultural Economics



HOW MUCH DO FIRE ANTS COST?

\$691 Million

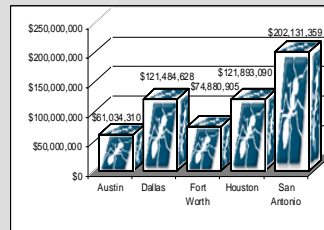


COSTS

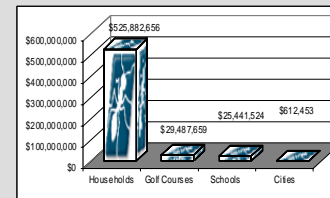
- What are the expenditures per metroplex?
 - Austin \$61 million
 - Dallas \$121 million
 - Fort Worth \$75 million
 - Houston \$122 million
 - San Antonio \$202 million
- What are the expenditures per sector?
 - Households \$526 million
 - Golf Courses \$29 million
 - Schools \$25 million
 - Cities \$112 million



Fire Ant Expenditures by Metroplex



Fire Ant Expenditures by Sector



- What are the expense categories and costs?
 - Treatment \$302 million
 - Repair \$81 million
 - Replacement \$152 million
 - Medical \$47 million
 - Electrical Companies \$111 million



Effects on Agriculture?

- Current work- survey of Texas producers to assess damages in cooperation with TASS and Texas Tech University
- Management advise for Texas Citizens
- Helpful information for the Community-Wide Management Plan



Conclusion

- Fire ants cost each homeowner \$151
- Fire ants cost each golf course \$63,495
- Fire ants cost each school \$4,954
- Cities experienced substantial damage to their electrical systems.



Distribution of Fire Ants



Researchers

- Dr. Curtis F. Lamb-Principal Investigator
- Dr. Victoria S. Salas-Co-Principal Investigator
- Dr. Charles R. Hall- Co-Principal Investigator
- Dr. Bradford Vinson- Research Consultant
- Kristi H. Cleere- Research Assistant
- Stephanie Purwell- Research Assistant
- Rachel McClintock- Student Assistant
- Dr. Bart Drees- Fire Ant Coordinator
- The Texas Legislature funds \$2.5 million per year for fire ant research initiatives throughout Texas.
- The Community-Wide Management Plan aims to increase efficiency of homeowners fire ant control.
- For Further Information visit: www.fireant.tamu.edu