



Fire Ant Trails:

News from the Texas Imported Fire Ant Research & Management Plan

July 2003

Vol. 6 No. 7

TWO NEW FACT SHEETS AVAILABLE ON-LINE

Fire Ant Plan Fact Sheet FAPFS042, **“Estimated amounts of insecticide ingredients used for imported fire ant control using various treatment approaches”** has been posted on <http://fireant.tamu.edu>. This fact sheet provides an analysis of the reduction of insecticides used for imported fire ant control using the Two Step Method and community-wide fire ant management approaches. Various scenarios are discussed, however, the community-wide management pilot showcase programs conducted in Texas (Riggs et al. 2002 can reduce insecticide use by 74% over 1995 insecticide use patterns and the national average mound density (68 mounds per acre). Implementation of community-wide fire ant management in urban areas can dramatically reduce environmental contamination resulting from ineffective over-use of insecticide products for imported fire ant control.

A second fact sheet, FAPFS043, **“Protecting penned animals from fire ants,”** was developed to discuss methods from preventing and controlling problems caused by imported fire ants entering cages, pens and other animal holding areas. This fact sheet should be of interest to veterinarians, zoo keepers, hobbyists and youth program leaders involved in keeping and rearing animals in enclosures where they are often unable to escape from foraging ants that can result in stinging incidents, serious medical injury and even death.

LOGIC® TO BE PHASED OUT

Doug Houseworth of Syngenta issued an e-mail, May 7, 2003, announcing that

Logic®, a bait containing the active ingredient fenoxycarb, is being phased out. “When the existing inventory is gone, no more will be made. This may take 2 to 3 years.” All uses on the Logic® label will be moved to the Award® label, which also contains fenoxycarb. So, for the people that are using Logic, they will have to get Award from distributors that are currently selling it.

DR. KEVIN HEINZ APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR OF THE TEXAS FIRE ANT PROJECT

In a memorandum dated May 27, 2003, Dr. Edward A. Hiler, Vice Chancellor and Dean, Agricultural and Life Sciences, and Dr. Charles J. Scifres, Associate Vice Chancellor for the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (TAES) assigned Dr. Kevin Heinz, Interim Head of the Department of Entomology as “Director, Texas Fire Ant Research & Management Project” effective immediately. “This assignment re-established the previous administrative relationship where the Fire Ant Project Director has routine access to needed information and expectations routinely shared among TAES administration and Department Heads.”

Fire Ants in The News

- ◆ Teenager Recovering from Burns - Boy Called “Lucky” After Anthill Fire (Houston Chronicle) by C. Horswell: <http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/metropolitan/1978240>
- ◆ Scientists Releasing Decapitating Flies to Combat Red Fire Ants (pct-newsletter): <http://www.pctonline.com/news/news.asp?ID=1964&AdKeyword=decapitating+flies>

Video Clips Available to Extension Faculty and Staff for Use in PowerPoint Presentations

Video clips are being generated for various insects and arthropods. These clips vary in viewing length from about 30 to just over 60 seconds and are saved as ".avi" files. To obtain video clip files, follow instructions below:

In Internet Explorer: Go to <http://insects.tamu.edu/imagegallery/>

Scroll down to Videos
Select a video
Right click
Select Save Target As
Save the file to your computer

In Netscape: Go to <http://insects.tamu.edu/imagegallery/>

Scroll down to Videos
Select a video
Right click
Select Save Link Target As
Save the file to your computer

I suggest establishing a file folder named video clips or store them on a zip drive, CD or other suitable location.

To use video clips in PowerPoint programs, read the .avi file into the program by selecting "insert movie from file." Once in the file, the image can be re-sized and a pop-up box will ask whether to start the clip automatically or on the next mouse click. Note that the video clip is not read into the PowerPoint file. Rather, when the slide comes up, the computer looks for the link to the appropriate folder where the .avi file is stored. In that sense, you might consider placing the PowerPoint program along with video clip .avi files used in that program together in one folder. Then, when the program is moved to another location, such as to a CD-ROM, all the files move together.

Video clip files currently available include:

- [Acrobat ants feeding on bait](#)
- [Carpenter ant, *Camponotus rasilis* or *C. sayi*](#)
- [Carpenter ant, *Camponotus pennsylvanicus* \(DeGeer\)](#)
- [Cheese ant, *Forelius* #1](#)
- [Cheese ant, *Forelius* #2](#)
- [Cheese ant, *Forelius* #3](#)
- [Cheese ants attacking fire ant queen](#)
- [Acrobat ants, *Crematogaster*](#)
- [Red velvet ant or "cow killer," *Dasymutilla occidentalis* \(Linnaeus\)](#)
- [Pavement ant nest, *Tetramorium*](#)
- [Pavement ants, *Tetramorium*, adults and brood](#)
- [Fire ant trail, *Solenopsis invicta*](#)
- [Red harvester ants, *Pogonomyrmex barbatus* Smith #1](#)
- [Red harvester ants, *Pogonomyrmex barbatus* Smith #2](#)
- [Red harvester ants, *Pogonomyrmex barbatus* Smith #3](#)
- [Harvester ants moving a dime](#)
- [Fire ants attacking harvester ant](#)
- [Little black ants, *Monomorium minimum*](#)

A number of addition video clips of insects have also been posted. Additional files will be posted as produced.

Prepared by: Bastiaan "Bart" M. Drees,
Professor and Extension Entomologist



Department of Entomology
412 Minnie Belle Heep Bldg.
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas 77843-2475
979/845-5878; FAX: 979/845-7029
b-drees@tamu.edu;
<http://fireant.tamu.edu>

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas Cooperative Extension or the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station is implied.