



Nursery & Garden Industry  
NSW & ACT

National  
fire ant  
eradication  
programs  
free fire ant  
training for  
residents:



# IDENTIFICATION, BEHAVIOR, AND CONTROL STRATEGIES FOR FIRE ANTS



## FIRE ANTS HAVE COME TO NSW!

Fire ants in NSW pose a serious threat to the environment. Together, we can stop their devastating impact and protect our community!



### DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS:

Copper brown with a darker abdomen • Small, measuring 2–6 mm • Found in a variety of sizes within the one nest • Waist section has two segments.



### NESTING BEHAVIOR:

Nests may appear as mounds or flat patches of soil • No obvious entry or exit holes • Aggressive behavior – hundreds of ants can swarm if disturbed, repeatedly attempting to sting.



### FIRST AID FOR STINGS:

Leave blisters intact • Wash with soap and water • Apply a cold compress or ice to relieve swelling and pain.



### SPREAD AND TRANSPORTATION:

Fire ants can travel by hitching a ride in various organic materials:

- Soil
- Baled materials
- Potted plants
- Manure
- Quarry products
- Turf
- Mulch and green waste

### COMMON AREAS OF INFESTATION:

Keep an eye out for fire ants in and around:

- Lawns, pastures, and cropland
- Footpaths and driveways
- Garden beds and piles of organic matter
- Water sources – taps, dams, and irrigation lines
- Utility pits – water and gas meters
- Cultivated land
- Along fence lines
- Disturbed soil and newly developed areas

## SUSPICION & REPORTING:

Report any suspicious ant sightings to DPI immediately:

1800 680 244

**! Don't touch the ants or their nest to avoid stings.**

**! Don't disturb or treat the infestation yourself.**