

Movement Controls

Movement restrictions apply to all residents and businesses in the fire ant Restricted Area (RA).

The controls help to stop the spread of fire ants which can be easily transported by people moving restricted materials, as listed in the table below.

The fire ant RA is the control zone in which movement restrictions apply. The RA has two risk zones; high and low. Refer to the table below to understand how movement controls affect you.

A map and listing of suburbs in the RA as well as guidelines for businesses and residents is available online.

www.daff.qld.gov.au/fireants

How you can help



- Regularly check your property and report any ants or nests that could be fire ant
- Be aware if you are living or working within the fire ant Restricted Area
- Commercial operators are required to have an Approved Risk Management Plan
- Be aware that it is an offence to move a live fire ant anywhere in Queensland
- Become a fire ant volunteer ranger and help to minimise the threat of fire ants to your community

More information

Call Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23** or visit:

www.daff.qld.gov.au/fireants

Fire ants



What you need to know

Breaching movement restrictions is a serious offence. Penalties of up to \$220 000 for individuals and \$1.1 million for corporations may apply.

Restricted items	Requirements for	High risk area (red zone)	Low risk area (orange zone)
Soil* Bark Manure Mulch Hay Potting media	Commercial operators	Movement of restricted items requires an Approved Risk Management Plan which must be followed to move these items off a site within the high risk area.	Movement of restricted items is allowed within the restricted area. Movement outside of the restricted area requires an Approved Risk Management Plan which must be followed.
	Residents	Residents living in the high risk area have several options when moving restricted items off their property. Refer to the website www.daff.qld.gov.au/fireants	Residents living in the low risk area have no formal requirements. Please check your yard for fire ants and call 13 25 23 if you think you have found suspect ants.

*Soil will require an inspector's approval before moving outside the restricted area.

Refer to website www.daff.qld.gov.au/fireants

Great state. Great opportunity.



Fire ants are not native to Australia, they come from South America. They were first found in Brisbane in 2001.



Human

They can be aggressive and attack in large numbers.

Human health impacts

- Painful sting
- Stings that blister
- Secondary infections
- In some cases, death from anaphylactic shock



Environmental

Environmental impacts

- Death for some native species
- Altered ecological balance

Agricultural impacts

- Reduced food production
- Damage to livestock and crops



Agricultural

Lifestyle impacts

- Reduced outdoor activities (in backyards, parks, schools, playgrounds)
- Cancellation of some sporting and community events
- Increased risk of harm to pets



Lifestyle

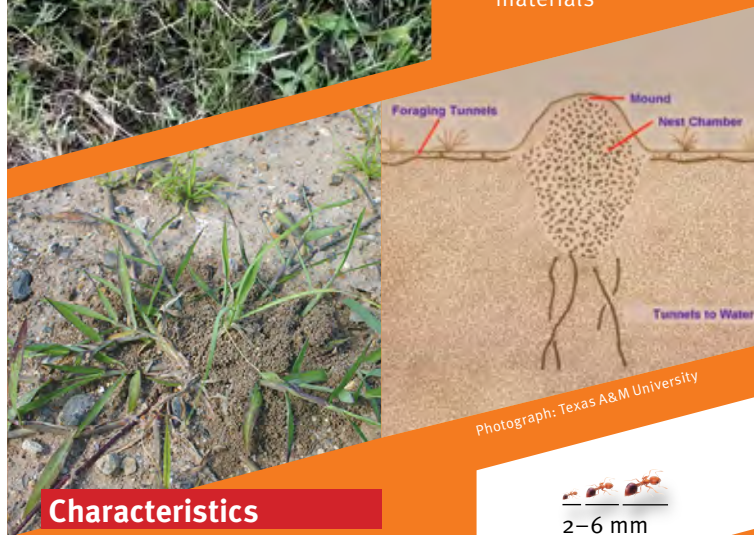
An economic impact assessment by Biosecurity Queensland in 2009 found that if fire ants are not controlled in Australia, they could cause \$43 billion in damages over the next 30 years.

Fire ant identification



Fire ant nests

- Various sizes
- No visible entry or exit holes
- Can be mounds or loose dirt
- Can live under logs and other gardening materials



Characteristics

- Extremely aggressive and will swarm when disturbed
- Will attack in large numbers



2-6 mm

Size

- Small (2-6 mm)
- A range of sizes in the same nest

Colour

- Coppery brown, darker abdomen



If you suspect you have fire ants

Call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23

Don't touch the ants or the nest

Don't try to treat the nest yourself

Check before moving restricted items off your property.



If you are stung by a fire ant

Apply a cold compress to relieve the swelling and pain. Gently wash the affected area with soap and water and leave the blister intact.

People who experience an allergic reaction after an ant sting should seek medical attention immediately.

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