



FIRE ANTS HAVE OTHER PLANS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Don't spread fire ants

fireants.org.au



NATIONAL
Fire Ant Eradication
PROGRAM



Fire ants are small, but they can have devastating consequences on the environment, economy and our outdoor way of life.

They can destroy crops, damage farming and electrical equipment, and kill native flora, fauna, pets and livestock. Fire ants can render land unusable, and their sting can be fatal for humans.

If we don't work together and stop them, fire ants could infest all of Australia—costing billions per year and changing our way of life, forever.

We need your help.



DON'T SPREAD FIRE ANTS

Fire ants are highly mobile and can travel undetected by hitching a ride in organic materials that are moved by people.

Human-assisted movement is the biggest risk for spreading fire ants into new areas. Fire ants like to nest in:



Soil



Baled materials



Potted plants



Manure



Quarry products



Turf



Mulch and green waste

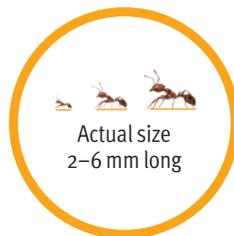
If you transport these materials from within the fire ant biosecurity zones, you must follow the movement requirements in the Biosecurity Regulation 2016. Moving these materials without mitigating the risk of spreading fire ants is an offence and penalties apply.

FIRE ANT IDENTIFICATION

Fire ants are aggressive and will swarm when disturbed. Their distinguishable features make them easy to identify against other ant species.

Fire ants are:

- copper brown with a darker abdomen
- small, measuring 2–6 mm
- found in a variety of sizes within the one nest.



If you find a suspect nest or ants, report them within 24 hrs at fireants.org.au or by calling 13 25 23.

Fire ant nests can look like mounds or flat patches of soil with **no obvious entry or exit holes**. They are not always visible and can take months to pop up. They are usually found in warm, open areas such as:

- lawns, pastures and cropland
- footpaths and driveways
- garden beds and in 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.



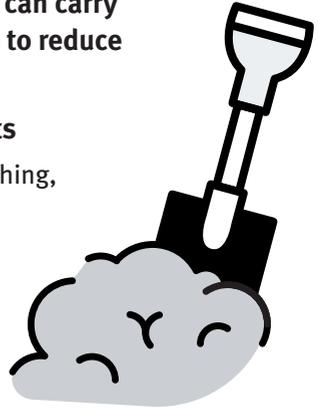
PRODUCING AND PROCESSING MATERIALS

If you produce, process or work with materials that can carry fire ants, you have a general biosecurity obligation to reduce the risk of spreading them.

Processing soil, mulch, manure and quarry products

Use machinery to vigorously disturb the material by crushing, screening, turning or washing the product.

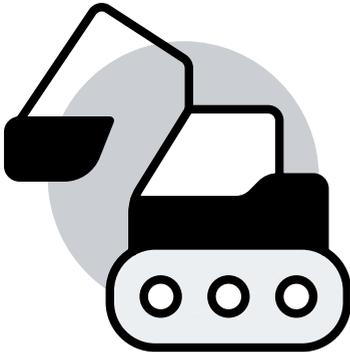
You must do this **every 21 days**, unless stored correctly* and at least **24 hrs** before it is moved off-site.



Excavating soil

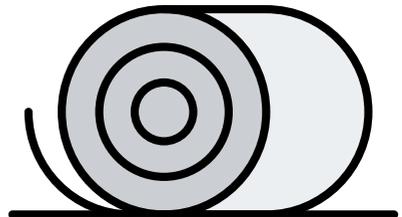
Soil that needs to be taken off-site should come from at least **1 m** below the surface of the ground. The top **1 m** of soil must not be mixed with soil to be removed from the site.

The soil cannot be stockpiled or exposed to the environment for **more than 21 days**. If stockpiled for **longer than 21 days**, soil should either be processed, treated or stored as recommended in this brochure.**



Harvesting hay and other baled materials

Perform the last 2 rakings **within 24 hrs** of each other. Cut material must then be baled **within 24 hrs** and either moved off the paddock **within 24 hrs** of baling or stored* appropriately.



*See 'Storing materials correctly' section in this brochure.

**See 'Soil movement restrictions' section in this brochure.



STORING MATERIALS CORRECTLY

If you store materials that can carry fire ants, you have a general biosecurity obligation to reduce the chance of fire ants infesting the materials you want to move off-site.

Store the material off-ground or on-ground with a **suitable covering** that prevents fire ant queens from flying in and building nests.



Storing materials off-ground does not require chemical treatment. However, materials must be covered at all times with a tarp, or be placed inside a shed.

Materials on pallets **ARE NOT** considered off-ground storage. If you want to use pallets you must follow the rules for on-ground storage.



If material is **stored on-ground**, the ground should be:

1 Fire ant-resistant:

- solid concrete or bitumen with no surface cracks
- a floor covering that fire ants cannot penetrate, e.g. 200-micron plastic (continuous) with no holes.

2 Treated with bifenthrin*

Fire ant-resistant flooring should receive a 30 cm-wide perimeter treatment.

Please note:

- If not stored on a fire ant-resistant surface, the entire surface should be treated.*
- Materials used for animal feed should be kept on rubber mats or plastic sheeting to avoid contamination.
- You must keep treatment records to demonstrate actions taken.

*For more details check the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) website at apvma.gov.au





TREATING TURF, POTTED PLANTS AND SOIL

You have a general biosecurity obligation to reduce the risk of spreading fire ants by treating some organic materials before you move them.

Turf*

- Treat before harvest with bifenthrin and move off-site in **2–42 days**.
- If not sold within 42 days, **you must** treat again.



Potted plants*

You can store or treat using one of the following options:

- Treat potting mix with bifenthrin or chlorpyrifos.
- Drench or dip the pot in bifenthrin, cyfluthrin or chlorpyrifos.
- Spray the potting media and the structure that the plant is stored on with bifenthrin.



Soil*

- Inspect the site and use approved fire ant treatment on the soil being excavated **2 weeks** before moving it.
- Always check for fire ant activity on previously treated areas before transporting soil.**



*Please check the conditions of the APVMA permits to verify treatment requirements and instructions.

**See 'Soil movement restrictions' section in this brochure.



MOVING MATERIALS OTHER THAN SOIL

Materials can be transported within Queensland without a permit if the rules for producing, processing and storing are followed correctly.*

Alternatively, you can move the material:

- Directly to a waste facility, **but only if**
 - material from fire ant biosecurity zone 1 is moved to a waste facility inside zone 1 or zone 2, or
 - material from fire ant biosecurity zone 2 is moved to a waste facility inside zone 2.
- Within 24 hrs of it arriving on your property.
- If you apply for and are granted a biosecurity instrument permit before moving it. You can apply for a permit at fireants.org.au/FACT

**Different rules apply for soil—see 'Soil movement restrictions' section in this brochure.*



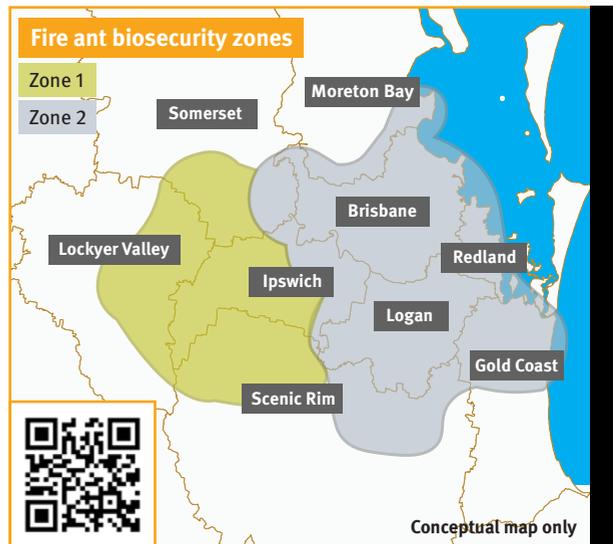
SOIL MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS

If you're moving soil, fill, spoil or anything containing soil from within the fire ant biosecurity zones, you have a general biosecurity obligation to use one of the processing, storing and treatment methods detailed in this brochure.

You can then move the soil:

- from zone 1 to anywhere inside zone 1 or zone 2
- or
- from zone 2 to a place inside zone 2 only.

Soil can only be moved outside of the zones, or from zone 2 to zone 1 with a biosecurity instrument permit. To obtain a permit, you will need to demonstrate how you plan to reduce the risk of spreading fire ants.



Remember, moving live fire ants is an offence and penalties apply.

To view the latest fire ant biosecurity zones visit fireants.org.au or scan the QR code.

INTERSTATE TRADE

Other states and territories have their own rules when it comes to moving plant material, soil and any related equipment.

Before moving materials or equipment that has come into contact with a restricted organic matter, contact the relevant state or territory to confirm their requirements.

Businesses dealing with potted plants under an Interstate Certification Assurance must follow ICA-39 conditions. All requirements should be considered in addition to the Queensland Biosecurity Regulation 2016, outlined in this brochure.

For more information visit daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/plant

RECEIVING MATERIALS

If you are purchasing or receiving materials that may be at risk of carrying fire ants, ensure that your supplier is operating with fire ant-safe practices in place.

Check our website for a list of questions you can ask your supplier to ensure that you, or they, do not accidentally bring fire ants onto your worksite or property.

By taking these simple steps, you can help protect your property and prevent the spread of fire ants into new areas.





NATIONAL
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For more information about fire ants or
how to reduce the risk of spreading them,
visit fireants.org.au or call **13 25 23**.

The National Fire Ant Eradication Program is a nationally cost-shared
program funded by all Australian state and territory governments, and
the federal government, delivered by Biosecurity Queensland.



Australian Government



Queensland Government



Government
of South Australia
Department of Primary
Industries and Regions



Department of
Primary Industries

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA



Tasmanian
Government



NORTHERN
TERRITORY
GOVERNMENT



ACT
Government



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development
GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA