

Ants



Ants are your lawn's friend!

Ants prey on other insects, recycle organic matter, and naturally aerate soil. They should only be considered a problem if they are getting into your house or if they are European Fire Ants, which sting.



Managing Ants in Your Yard

- Topdress with compost and overseed any bare areas of soil or thin grass.
- Keep plants and mulch at least 6" from foundations.
- Trim plant branches to prevent them from touching buildings and creating a bridge for ants.
- Identify the ant, as each type has different nesting behavior and food preferences. This will help choose the most effective form of management to remove the colony and nest, if necessary. Check with your local Cooperative Extension or gotpests.org for assistance identifying ants.



Keeping Ants Outside

- **Seal cracks and crevices** with silicone caulking around items like baseboards, pipes, outlets, sinks, and toilets.
- **Store food and trash in airtight containers**, clean up all spills right away, bring compost outside daily, and clean pet food dishes after each meal.
- **Replace rotten wood** and ventilate moist areas to deter carpenter ants from establishing colonies.

Inside Ant Control

- **Use an ant-specific bait labeled for indoor use** (sweet or grease/protein). Follow all safety instructions. Keep traps away from children and pets.

If You Find an Indoor Nest

- Use a HEPA filter vacuum to remove all visible ants. Seal and dispose of the bag immediately.
- Clean the area with soapy water to remove their trails. Monitor the area for additional ants.
- Continue vacuuming up any additional ants and set out ant-specific bait labeled for indoor use.

European Fire Ants

Contact Cooperative Extension or a licensed commercial applicator for assistance as these ants are very tenacious.