

PEST CONTROL DEPARTMENT

GARDEN, (BLACK), ANTS

Garden ants usually nest outdoors in lawns, flower beds beneath paving flags and at the base of walls. During the summer months, winged females (Queens) and males leave the nest on one or two warm afternoons and take flight. During this flight the ants mate. Sometimes, during this flight which lasts 2 or 3 hours, the ants may fly inside buildings. In this event the problem may be overcome by using a flying insect aerosol spray.

Houses are usually invaded by worker ants foraging for food, especially sweet foods. When food is found by one ant, there will soon be others and a trail of worker ants take the food back to the nest.

CONTROL MEASURES

If possible, trace the trail of the worker ants to where the nest is situated, the openings to the nest can often be distinguished by small piles of earth that has been excavated from underground to construct the nest. If the nest could be exposed then sprinkle a little ant powder into the entrance. If it is not possible to trace the nest, use an insecticidal dust or spray labelled for the control of crawling insects to treat outside the building and the ground around it, special attention should be paid to likely entry points such as door and window frames, air bricks and waste pipes to create an insecticidal barrier.

Pesticides that contain the ingredient BENDIOCARB are usually found to be most effective. The same insecticide may be used indoors where ants have been found wandering. Application should form a continuous band around skirting's etc. Care must be taken not to contaminate food and food preparation areas with the insecticide.

Alternatively a bait station using Borax may be used which foraging ants take back to the nest for preparation in feeding the other members of the nest, this is effective but requires regular application until completely clear. Suitable insecticides may be purchased from ironmongers, chemists or garden centres.

Black Ants do not bite, although they do produce an acid like solution that may give the feeling of being bitten, they are not known to carry disease and are not considered to be a health hazard.

PRECAUTIONS

Whenever insecticides are used, read the instructions on the label and follow them carefully, if in doubt always seek professional advice.

PUBLIC INFORMATION SHEET No1

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