

CHEMICAL CONTROL OF ARGENTINE ANTS

Sunil Tewari, Department of Entomology, Louisiana State University.



www.doc.govt.nz/.../ Argentine-ants.asp

BACKGROUND

Know the jargon of chemical control:

Contact insecticide - a poison that must contact the body of the insect to be controlled.

Bait insecticide- a bait insecticide combines an ant attractive food source with an insecticide.

Barriers- chemicals applied around structures to prevent ants from entering them.

Dusts- dusts are dry formulations applied ready to use out of container to inaccessible areas such as cracks and voids.

Repellents- These helps in keeping those areas free of ants which are particularly attractive to them such as kitchen and trash cans.

Active ingredient (a.i.) - It is that part of the product that actually does what the product is designed to do.

BAITS: CHEAP AND EFFECTIVE FOR INDOOR USE

- Start your ant control with a cheap home made bait:
- You will need- boric acid (available at local pharmacy), peanut butter and honey.
- Mix 2 ounces (4 tablespoons) peanut butter and 3 ounces (6 tablespoons) honey with ¾ teaspoon boric acid.
- Spread some bait on either duct or mask tape.
- Place the tape in areas frequented by ants.

Tips for effective bait use:

- Do not spray insecticides around the bait and never use very high concentration of boric acid; it will repel the ants.
- Resist the temptation to crush the ants feeding on bait; let the workers carry poison back to the nest.
- Give the bait some time to show its effects; it is not a magic wand and takes time.
- Make sure children and pets stay away from baits.

OUTDOOR ANT CONTROL

Before starting outdoor control with chemicals:

- Remove any object that might serve as a colonizing structure for ants. These include wooden boards, rocks, construction material, etc. Clear your yard of junk!!
- Avoid excessive watering of lawns and flower beds as these ants love moist conditions.
- Do not allow excessive vegetation to grow near your house as it acts as a perfect hiding place for them.
- Eliminating this ant species is an area wide effort and so whole communities should come together and work as a group. It is very important that everyone works together.

Chemicals for controlling argentine ants:

CYPERMETHRIN: It is a pyrethroid and works by quickly affecting the ant's central nervous system which results in its death.

Insecticides containing cypermethrin:

Cynoff EC (active ingredients is Cypermethrin 24.8%). It is an odorless liquid insecticide concentrate and leaves no visible residue. Use half of one ounce per gallon and each quart of Cynoff EC will make about 64 gallons of solution. <http://www.pestproducts.com/cynoff.htm>

Demon EC (a.i. is Cypermethrin 25.3%). It is a low odor liquid concentrate which leaves no visible residue. Use half to one ounce per gallon. Each pint will make 32 gallons of solution. <http://www.pestproducts.com/pesticides.htm#EC>

Cypermethrin EC (a.i. is Cypermethrin 26%). Product is same as the above two and available in a four ounce bottle that make 8 gallons. <http://www.kill-fireants.com/cypermethrin2.htm>

CHLORPYRIFOS: It is an organophosphate insecticide that targets the nervous system of Argentine ant. This is being phased out of the market.

CYFLUTHRIN: Like cypermethrin it is also a pyrethroid and acts in similar manner.

Bayer Advanced Home Indoor and Outside Insect Killer can be used to control argentine ants.

Some commercially available baits are:

Some boric acid baits available in market: Terro® Ant Killer, Drax Ant Kill Gel®, Drax Ant Kill pf. Detailed information about these products can be obtained by typing the product name in Google Search Engine.



Baits

www.shanestack.com/shop/index.php?page=shop-b...

www.cbproproducts.com/indProduct.php4?itemNum.

KINDS OF TREATMENTS

Indoor Ant Control: Baits are one of the safest and most effective agents to control ants indoors.

Direct Nest Treatment: If nests are located indoors then use dusts (boric acid, silica gel, etc) as they do not leave stains and give longer residual effect. If nests are located outside then treat the mounds individually by either baits, dusts, drenches, granules, etc. Baits can also be broadcasted and surface application of insecticides is also an option.

Barrier treatments: When ants invade from outside then spray 3 to 4 foot wide bank of soil around the perimeter of the house and also the lower 3 to 4 feet of the house.



Demon EC

www.pestproducts.com/cypermethrin.htm



Cynoff EC

www.accupest.com/html/cynoff_ec.html

ALSO KEEP IN MIND TO:

- Use pesticides only according to the directions on the label. Follow all directions, precautions and restrictions that are listed.
- Never dump unused chemicals in a place where they could become a potential hazard such ponds, streams, parks, etc.
- Always use protective clothing and eyewear while applying chemicals.
- Do not eat, drink and smoke while applying insecticides.
- Store unused chemicals in a place where children and pets can't find them.
- Chemical control works best when all the people in a particular locality undertake the task together.

REFERENCES CITED

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