

Do NOT spread Formosan subterranean termites!



winged termite

The Formosan subterranean termite was spread to Louisiana around the end of World War II. Described as the most important structural pest of the new millennium, the Formosan subterranean termite is now considered the most destructive insect in Louisiana.

It causes millions of dollars in losses because of treatments; repairs; defaults on loans; and collapse, demolition and rebuilding of structures. It spreads naturally through swarming and budding but at a slow rate. It is being spread much more rapidly by humans across Louisiana and to other states.



soldier termite

Are you spreading Formosan subterranean termites?

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This termite hitches a ride to new areas in infested cellulose (wood, paper or their products). At this writing, the number one method of spreading the Formosan subterranean termite is infested railroad ties.

The second most important method of spreading the Formosan subterranean termite is infested utility poles. Other methods of spreading the termite include: wood from structures, lumber, pallets, landscape timbers, wood used in the oil industry, firewood, trees, sawdust, mulch, potted plants, pieces of wood in boats, mobile homes, homes and paper. It has been reported that winged termites can land on and hitch a ride on vehicles.

Do NOT move cellulose from infested areas unless you are sure the material is not infested. EVERYONE has a responsibility to prevent the spread of the termite! If there is a doubt about whether or not material is infested, either do NOT move the material or properly treat it before moving it.

The Formosan subterranean termite is known to infest parts of Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

To determine if material is infested, make a thorough inspection looking for termites, damaged wood, soil, mud tubes and carton nest. Infrared photography may be used to help determine if the inside of wood is infested.

Additionally, it is important to know where the Formosan subterranean termite is located in the state to help prevent its spread. You can help in this effort by sending winged termites and soldiers (termites with large, orange-yellow heads) in for identification.



Please send termites to 400-A Life Sciences, Department of Entomology, LSU Agricultural Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803. Contact your county agent for assistance in sending termites or for further information.

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