



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

PROCEDURE FOR SHIPPING IMPORTED FIRE ANT QUARANTINED ARTICLES TO IMPORTED FIRE ANT-FREE AREAS

- Contact the Texas Department of Agriculture prior to shipping Fire Ant Quarantined Articles to ensure compliance with state and federal IFA regulations and USDA approved quarantine treatment requirements.
- Treat shipments, premises and holding/shipping areas for IFA prior to compliance and shipment inspections.
- Recheck shipment [containers, bedding plants, balled & burlapped (B&B) trees, etc.] for IFA by observing ant activity (foraging, nesting, flying, etc.) and by baiting, beating containers or disturbing plant media.
- Ensure interior of truck container are thoroughly cleaned of soil, debris, and check for IFA by inspection and baiting, and treat for IFA, if necessary.
- **Shipments to Arizona:** Ship only to the Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) approved holding areas. A list of AZDA approved holding areas is available at: <https://agriculture.az.gov/approved-holding-areas-o>.
 - a. Each shipment must be certified for freedom from IFA (and Japanese beetle, which has similar pesticide treatment requirements). AZDA may decide to inspect the shipment on arrival.
- **Container grown plants:*** Use Immersion or Dip Treatment using bifenthrin or chlorpyrifos; Drench Treatment using bifenthrin or chlorpyrifos, or Granular Incorporation of bifenthrin, fipronil or tefluthrin.
- **B&B tree shipments:*** Use Immersion or Dip Treatment using bifenthrin or chlorpyrifos, or use Drench Treatment using chlorpyrifos.
- **Grass sod shipments:*** Use liquid bifenthrin or chlorpyrifos or granular fipronil for broadcast field applications

- **Hay shipments:**** Hay or straw in direct contact with soil is not eligible for movement out of the IFA quarantined area. Baled hay that is stacked in IFA free area and is not in direct contact with the ground; baled hay that is stored on asphalt, concrete, tarp, etc.; or baled hay elevated above ground on pallets is eligible for shipment to IFA-free areas if inspected, found free of IFA, and certified by a state or federal inspector. Hay pasture and shipping area should be treated for IFA before baling and storing hay. Hay that contains soil may not leave the IFA quarantined area.
- The Texas Department of Agriculture’s Biosecurity and Agriculture Resource Management Program may take other actions as required such as: compliance inspection of nurseries and nursery media residue sampling for confirmation of USDA approved treatment.

*Consult treatment details given in USDA-APHIS Publication (APHIS 81-25-001), “Imported Fire Ant: Quarantine Treatments for Nursery Stock, Grass Sod, and Related Materials.”
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/fireants/downloads/ifa-nursery-faqs-2013.pdf,
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/fireants/downloads/IFA_nursery.pdf

**Consult Hay and Straw Shipment Information at:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/BaledHayIndustryAlert.pdf>.

TDA Hay Hotline: <http://www.gotexan.org/HayhotlineHome.aspx>.

Hay pasture treatment: http://fireant.tamu.edu/controlmethods/products/extinguish_plus/

http://fireant.tamu.edu/controlmethods/products/amdro_pro/.

TREATMENT AND SHIPPING INFORMATION

USDA APPROVED IFA TREATMENT CHEMICALS: A list of USDA approved treatment pesticides can be found at:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/fireants/downloads/IFA_QuarantineLabels.pdf

All the products at the link above are registered, except the following, which are not registered in Texas:

Bifenthrin Nursery Granular Insecticide

Southern Agricultural Insecticides, Inc.

Registered in FL, GA, NC, TN

The followed are substitute pesticides registered in Texas, that can be substituted Bifenthrin Nursery Granular:

Quali-Pro® Bifenthrin Golf & Nursery 7.9F

Quali-Pro Professional T&O Products

Containers

USEFUL LINKS

TEXAS IMPORTED FIRE ANT QUARANTINED AREAS:

<http://www.texasagriculture.gov/RegulatoryPrograms/PlantQuality/PestandDiseaseAlerts/RedImportedFireAntQuarantinedArea.aspx>

U.S. IMPORTED FIRE ANT QUARANTINED AREAS

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/fireants/downloads/fireant.pdf

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/fireants/downloads/fireant-2.pdf

IMPORTED FIRE ANT PROGRAM MANUAL:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/domestic/downloads/fire_ant.pdf

IFA REGULATIONS

TEXAS RED IMPORTED FIRE ANT QUARANTINE (4 TAC [SUBCHAPTER J](#)):

[http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=4&pt=1&ch=19&sch=J&rl=Y](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=4&pt=1&ch=19&sch=J&rl=Y)

USDA IFA QUARANTINE (7 CFR 301.81-1 to 301.81-11. SUBPART – IMPORTED FIRE ANT):

<http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/retrieveECFR?gp=&SID=1caae8b850148c046406dd0ccd9acb69&n=7y5.1.1.1.2&r=PART&ty=HTML#sp7.5.301.xx15>

ARIZONA (R3-4-239. Imported Fire Ants):

http://apps.azsos.gov/public_services/Title_03/3-04.pdf

CALIFORNIA (301.81 Imported Fire Ant):

<http://pi.cdffa.ca.gov/pqm/manual/htm/214.htm>

PROGRAM CONTACTS

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Texas Department of Agriculture
Biosecurity and Environmental Resource Management

4/16/22

Regional Offices

North Texas Regional Office

1720 Regal Row, Suite 118
Dallas, TX 75235
Phone: (214) 631-0265
Fax: (888) 205-6335

Gulf Coast Regional Office

5425 Polk Street, G-20
Houston, TX 77023
Phone: (713) 921-8200
Fax: (888) 223-5606

West Texas Regional Office

4502 Englewood Ave.
Lubbock, TX 79414
Phone: (806) 799-8555
Fax: (800) 831-3746

South Central Texas Regional Office

8918 Tesoro Drive, # 120
San Antonio, TX 78217
Phone: (210) 820-0288
Fax: (888) 203-1235

Valley Regional Office

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San Juan, TX 78589
Phone: (956) 787-8866
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