



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 nursery stock holding areas is available at: <https://agriculture.az.gov/plantsproduce/nurseries-businesses/nursery-stock-holding-are>
 - 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 Crop Plant Industry 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-fags-2013.pdf,
[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/fireants/downloads/IFA_nursery.p df](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/sites/default/files/fsc-baled-hay-ifa.pdf>

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

Hay pasture treatment: [Products - Texas Imported Fire Ant Research and Management Project](#)

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/sites/default/files/IFA_nursery.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 following are substitute pesticides registered in Texas, that can be substituted Bifenthrin Nursery Granular:

Quali-Pro® Bifenthrin Golf &
Nursery 7.9F
Up-Star® SC Lawn & Nursery

Quali-Pro Professional T&O
Products
United Phosphorus, Inc.

Containers
Containers

USEFUL LINKS

❖ **TEXAS IMPORTED FIRE ANT QUARANTINED AREAS:**
[Map with Counties Quarantined Fire Ants.pdf](#)

❖ **U.S. IMPORTED FIRE ANT QUARANTINED AREAS**
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-pests-diseases/ifa/ifa-quarantine-map>

❖ **IMPORTED FIRE ANT PROGRAM MANUAL:**
[Imported Fire Ant Program Manual](#)

IFA REGULATIONS

❖ **TEXAS RED IMPORTED FIRE ANT QUARANTINE (4 TAC SUBCHAPTER J):**
https://texas-sos.appianportalsgov.com/rules-and-meetings?chapter=19&interface=VIEW_TAC&part=1&subchapter=J&title=4

❖ **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=1caaefb850148c046406dd0ccd9acb69&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.cdfa.ca.gov/pgm/manual/htm/214.htm>

PROGRAM CONTACTS

[Email: PlantQuality@TexasAgriculture.gov](mailto:PlantQuality@TexasAgriculture.gov)

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TDA Regional Offices

[North Texas Regional Office](#)

[West Texas Regional Office](#)

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Gulf Coast Regional Office

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South Central Texas Regional Office

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Valley Regional Office

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