A Bug's Life

Fun facts

- Named because of behavior of holding abdomen up when disturbed
- Nests usually found outdoors under items, may nest indoors in areas of high moisture, especially bathrooms
- Can trail long distances
- Sugar feeding ants that feed on honeydew from aphids feeding on plants

Identification

- **Damage**: Materials kicked out of door frames or window frames like insulation or wood shavings, workers, swarvers (with wings)
- **Workers**: 2-nodes, 1/8" long, pair of spines on thorax, heart-shaped abdomen or gaster, may be reddish-brown to black in color

Management

- May sting and bite when disturbed
- Use outdoor bait stations with liquid sugar bait, placed as close to trails
- While using baits, ants must be allowed to feed and take back to colony
- If nest is confirmed inside, locate nest and treat directly with labeled insecticide (dust or liquid, follow label)

Photos: J. Green

Workers tending to aphids

Liquid sugar bait

Swarvers