

A Bug's Life

Carpenter ant

Camponotus species

Fun facts

- Largest of the ants in Nebraska
- Does not eat wood, but create galleries in substrate
- Nutritional requirements are sugar and protein (not a "sugar ant")
- Presence may indicate moisture problems or structural damage
- Nocturnal foragers that can travel long distances



Identification

Damage: Piles of coarse sawdust with insect fragments, smooth galleries in wood, with and against the grain

Workers: 1/4 to 1/2" long, different sizes, evenly rounded thorax, yellow hairs on abdomen

Alate: Large ant with wings, annual swarms, females larger than males



Management

- Locate nest by providing sugar bait and then following workers back
- Nest may not be indoors or located on the property (satellite colony)
- Consider hiring a professional to treat nest directly with insecticide spray or dust or bait labeled specifically for carpenter ants

