

# A Bug's Life

# Citronella ants

Large yellow ant - *Lasius interjectus*; Small yellow ant - *Lasius claviger*

## Fun facts

- Named because of lemony odor workers produce when disturbed
- Nests almost always found outdoors under items, may swarm indoors in winter coming out from under slab
- Sugar feeding ants that feed on honeydew from root aphids

## Identification

Damage: Alates or ants with wings may be found in piles on the floor  
Worker: 1-node, 1/4" long, small eyes, yellowish-orange to brown color  
Alate: Females may be orange-brown to reddish-brown color with smoky wings, males may be black, females are much larger than males

## Management

- Normally not a pest indoors unless they swarm and become a nuisance
- During mating swarm, baits will not be effective, so it's best to sweep or vacuum up ants and seal up entrance
- Insecticide treatment indoors is not recommended unless workers are foraging indoors



Swarmers or alates



Workers tending to root aphids



Male

Female

Male

Female

Worker

Photos: J. Green