

A Bug's Life

Field ants

Formica species

Fun facts

- Named because of they nest in large mounds in the grass and fields
- Nest outdoors in the soil or under pavers, usually not a pest indoors
- Often confused for carpenter ants
- Found in gardens feeding on plant nectar and honeydew from aphids, as well as small insects

Identification

Damage: Mounds in the turf or under items in garden with many entrances and live ants

Workers: 1 node, 3/8" long or larger, difference sizes of workers in the same colony, uneven thorax, simple eyes on front of head, various colors from reddish-brown to black

Management

- Indoor treatment not recommended
- If nest must be eliminated, rake away soil and treat mound with insecticide labeled for drench application, follow the label
- Use outdoor bait stations with liquid sugar bait, placed close to mound
- While using baits, ants must be allowed to feed and take back to colony



Feeding on sappy coating of peony



Outdoor bait station

Photos: J. Green