

A Bug's Life

Thief ant

Solenopsis molesta

Fun facts

- Named because they steal food from other ant colonies
- Nests can be found indoors out outdoors, but hardly detected because they are tiny
- Sometimes found in motors
- Grease feeding ants find a way into kitchen, prefer oils, nuts, peanut butter

Identification

Damage: Presence of small trailing ants on countertops and pantry, may get into unopened food packages and ingredients

Workers: 2 nodes, 1/20" long, orange-brown color, stinger, 2-segmented club on antenna

Management

- Clean up spills and drips right away
- Use a variety of ant baits with sugar and grease, placed as close to trail
- While using baits, ants must be allowed to feed and take back to colony
- Do not use repellent insecticide sprays during baiting program as it will counteract effectiveness
- Freeze and discard infested products



Photos: J. Green