STOP THE INVASION- REPORT THIS PEST

Red Imported Fire Ant

Maui County Priority Pest for Maui, Lanai, and Molokai:

Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA)

are aggressive biting ants not known to occur anywhere in Hawaii. These ants build dome shaped mounds of fine soil with no visible opening. When disturbed ants will swarm out of the nest and sting anything within proximity.

Identification

- Length: 3-6 mm (1/8-1/4 in)
- opaque shiny black abdomen
- Head size is always the same proportion to body size, with no "big-headed" workers
- stings cause blisters filled with white pus that last for several days

RIFA is reddish-brown with a dark opaque abdomen

(Top) An early stage nest mound only a few weeks and (Bottom) a characteristic cone shaped

Pus filled blister caused by RIFA stings last for days

Don't mistake Red Imported Fire Ant for these look-alikes:

Tropical Fire Ant

Tropical fire ant (*Solenopsis geminata*):

The tropical fire ant is common throughout Hawaii. This small red ant is 3-6 mm (1/8-1/4 in) long. Some of the workers will have proportionately large, square heads. This ant is restriced to dry coastal areas and nests in the soil; it does not construct mounds. Tropical fire ant stings will cause irratation, but should not cause white pus filled blisters that persist for days.

Other Ants:

There are over 40 types of ants in Hawaii. Most of these ants are black to pale brown and slightly transparent. Most other ants build mounds that will have a visible opening or be surrouded by an area that is stripped of vegetation. No other ant in Hawaii will agressivly swarm like the red imported fire ant.

Report online: www.reportapest.org
Call in a report:
Maui/Lanai: 573-6471 Molokai: 553-5236

Pacific Basin Information Node
http://pbin.nbii.gov