Detect - Report - Stop the Little Fire Ant

www.littlefireants.com or www.lfa.hawaii.gov

Learn More

Hawaii Island: 315-6566 (Hawaiian) 1-800-656-9292 (National)

Repot

Hilo, HI 96720
16 E. Liliuokalani St.

Hawaii Island: Hawaii Ant Lab / HDOA
Molokai: (808) 563-7957 for instructions)

Hilo, HI 96722
Kauai: 352-6374

Honolulu, HI 96814

Oahu: 1425 S. King St.

Lihue, HI 96766

Kauai: 934-9994
Health Department of Hawaii

For more information about LFA, visit:

Immediatly report suspected LFA

We need your help! If you see or damage crop, report possible LFA

If we don't take action now, they will spread across the Hawaiian Islands

What is the Little Fire Ant?

They live in the top soil, but they can be found on Hawaiian Islands. Everyone needs to look for and report Little Fire Ants (LFA).

A multi-agency response has been launched to survey and target LFA locations on the Island of Maui.

If you spot LFA, or damage crops, report it immediately to the Department of Agriculture.


**Protect Your Family**

**DETECT**

Supplies: peanut butter, disposable chopsticks, zip top bags, and a pen.

1. Place sticks with a **thin** smear of peanut butter* every few feet in and around plants in your yard, garden, and lanai. Focus on shady, moist areas, the bottoms of pots, and where plants' leaves meet the stem.

   *Regular peanut butter, not natural or fat free.

   **For those with a peanut allergy, use pieces of luncheon meat.

2. Leave the sticks in place for **1 hour** during the cool part of the day.

3. Check sticks without moving them. Collect the stick if:
   - The ants are uniformly orange/red and VERY small.
   - You are unsure about the ants.

4. Very carefully place it directly into the bag (so ants don’t fall off).

5. Seal the bag, label it with your name, address and phone number, and **put it in your freezer overnight** to kill the ants.

**REPORT**

Call the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) statewide pest hotline at **643-PEST** to report that you might have LFA. Drop off (or mail) the sample (zip top bag with frozen ants) at any HDOA office (see back for locations).

HDOA will contact you when the ants are identified. **Do not disturb the ants and do not control or treat the area.** This will make the nests difficult to find and possibly spread them further.

**STOP LFA**

If HDOA confirms you don’t have LFA, congratulations and thank you! Remain vigilant. **Always quarantine and test any new plants, cut flowers, plant materials, mulch, soil and other items.**

If you do have LFA, call HDOA about what to do next. We can help you control it, but we need your help to map and control every location of LFA to help prevent it from spreading.

**How to identify LFA:**

- Tiny ants: 1/16 inch, as long as a penny is thick
- Orange-red in color
- Slow-moving

**Look-alike: Tropical fire ant**

- Common larger stinging ant
- Widespread
- Builds ground nests in sunny, dry areas
- Nests have distinct openings

*An entire LFA colony can fit in a macadamia nut shell*

- LFA don't form mounds
- Nests don't have distinct openings
- Nests in moist, shady areas, in trees, under tree bark, under rocks, within logs & in leaf litter