



YELLOW CRAZY ANTS

TREATMENT FACT SHEET

The Townsville Yellow Crazy Ant Management Program (TYCAMP) follows tried and tested methods for treating Yellow Crazy Ants, endorsed by Biosecurity Queensland and used in several other infested locations across Queensland.

BEST-PRACTICE METHODS

The best method for destroying Yellow Crazy Ant colonies is to use an insecticide bait. Townsville City Council Authorised Persons operate under a permit issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) that allows for the use of AntOff ant bait, a fish meal-based pellet that includes 0.01g/kg of the insecticide Fipronil.

The concentration of the active ingredient, Fipronil, must be very low as to not kill the worker ants on contact, and to encourage them to pick it up as a food source to be taken back to the colony and feed to the queens.

DISTRIBUTION OF BAIT

While larger, rural properties and forested and agricultural areas are treated aerially by helicopter and drone, smaller residential and riparian areas are treated using handheld spreaders and blowers to disperse the bait. Ant numbers will gradually decline after each treatment, but you will still find pockets of ants after the first few treatments. It is also common to see an increase in ant numbers in the wet season, especially if treatment has been delayed due to wet weather.

It takes multiple treatments to kill the queen ants and wipe out a Yellow Crazy Ant nest. We take every precaution to inform landholders and residents when we are treating in their area; sending letters prior to treatment including dates and times, and leaving calling cards if treatment has occurred whilst the occupier is not home.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP TREAT YELLOW CRAZY ANTS

When bait treatments have occurred, we recommend the following:

- Turn off your sprinklers and do not irrigate lawns for 48 hrs to keep the Fipronil insecticide in the bait.
- Avoid mowing your lawns for 48 hours. Mowing may interfere with the ants picking up the bait and may cut the bait up into smaller pieces.

OTHER INSECTICIDES

TYCAMP Authorised Persons use a range of insecticides that target Yellow Crazy Ants for different purposes:

- Termidor is a Fipronil-based barrier treatment for use outside and sprayed 300mm up and out from the wall. This type of insecticide acts as a barrier treatment that kills workers on contact to prevent them from entering homes.
- Vanquish Pro Ant Bait is another registered product in Australia, containing 0.06g/kg Fipronil as its active ingredient. Delivered as a paste within a protein and carbohydrate matrix, it is highly effective for spot treatment of known nests in smaller infestations.

Landholders may also choose to use other insecticides that are registered for the control of ants or engage a licensed pest control operator to treat Yellow Crazy Ants.

Several registered ant control choices available are listed on the Agricultural Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) website www.apvma.gov.au. All permits granted for the control of Yellow Crazy Ants can also be found on the APVMA website.

Council's permit for the use of Antoff is also found on the Townsville City Council website www.townsville.qld.gov.au/water-waste-and-environment/pests-and-weeds/yellow-crazy-ants along with the product label for the use of Antoff.

CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The environmental impacts of a Yellow Crazy Ant infestation are devastating. Left untreated, Yellow Crazy Ants will kill all other ant species and most other invertebrates and reptiles, decimating nesting bird and roosting bat populations.

TYCAMP Authorised Persons are actively monitoring the reduction in numbers of Yellow Crazy Ants, and the return of native ants, following treatment with Antoff at several infestations in Townsville.

We typically avoid treating Yellow Crazy Ants during the wet season. This precaution helps ensure that the active ingredient, Fipronil, remains contained in the baits and does not enter waterways or stormwater drains, thereby minimising the risk to non-target species.

Antoff is delivered by trucks on pallets containing hundreds of sealed, white 20-litre buckets. Once empty, all buckets are triple rinsed at Council's contained wash down facilities and recycled.



DIRECTIONS FOR USE

ANTOFF™ Fipronil Ant Bait

ACTIVE CONSTITUENTS: 0.01g/kg FIPRONIL

SITUATION	Grazing land, native bushland, domestic and public service areas, commercial and industrial areas.
PEST	Yellow Crazy Ants <i>Anoplolepis gracilipes</i>
APPLICATION RATE	Broadcast Initial treatment: 10 kg/ha Follow up treatments: 5 kg/ha

CRITICAL USE COMMENTS

- DO NOT apply if rain is imminent or within 24 hours after rain.
- DO NOT treat broadscale areas where there are non-target species of significance known to be present, including areas of known habitat for endangered frogs.
- DO NOT repeat applications where ant populations are no longer evident after eradication treatments.
- DO NOT apply directly over standing nor flowing water.
- DO NOT aerially disperse within 25m of standing water.
- DO NOT apply by broadcast application in a free-range poultry situation.
- DO NOT feed turf or lawn clippings from any treated area to poultry or livestock.

GUIDELINES FOR USE

- Apply broadcast baiting in areas where ant colonies are active
- Apply a maximum of five broadscale applications per year. Five applications are typically considered sufficient for eradication.
- Make applications using hand broadcast and/or agricultural dispersal equipment, or aerial dispersal using a helicopter or drone with agricultural product dispersal equipment.
- Undertake aerial or on-foot survey before any Fipronil treatment to determine where waterways are flowing and where waterbodies remain.
- Where there are standing pools of water within a dry creek bed, treatment between the standing water must be undertaken by hand application.
- Remove livestock from grazing land before broad scale application.
- Bait must not directly contact food or feed plants except for grazing land.
- Do not graze or cut for stock food for 14 days after application.

For more information

☎ 13 48 10

✉ enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au

🌐 townsville.qld.gov.au/yellowcrazyants



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water



Queensland Government