

Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA)

WARNING!

It is **illegal** to ship plant material, sod or mulch from areas known to be infested by fire ants unless approved by the USDA. Shippers must have a cooperative agreement in place before shipment.

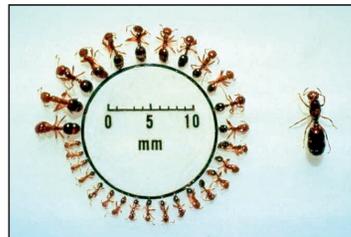
A current map of areas quarantined because of fire ant infestation may be viewed at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/maps/fireant.pdf>

If you believe you have discovered a red imported fire ant infestation, contact VDACS Office of Plant and Pest Services immediately. **Individuals and commercial pest control operators should not attempt to treat fire ant infestations.** Failure to eradicate an entire nest will result in the local establishment and spread of RIFA in a very short period of time.

VDACS Office of Plant and Pest Services
804-786-3515



Red Imported Fire Ant mound.*



Array showing size of workers and queen.*



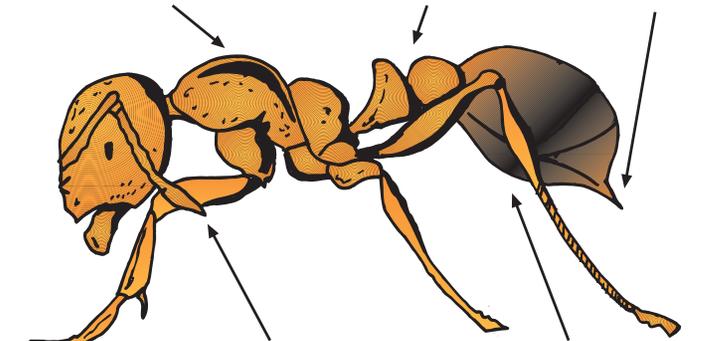
Winged fire ant queen*



Pustules resulting from fire ant stings**

Red to reddish-brown ant about 3-6 mm. or 1/8 inch long.

Thorax profile is uneven, viewed from side. Two nodes attach abdomen to thorax. Stinger is tip of abdomen.



18-segment antenna has two-segment 'club' end.

Abdomen usually darker than rest of body.

Fire Ant Worker drawing modified from K-State Research & Extension, Kansas State University

*Courtesy of Texas Imported Fire Ant Project, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

**Courtesy of Sanford D. Porter, USDA, Gainesville, Florida

2003

Lois Swoboda and D. M. Miller, Department of Entomology, Virginia Tech

Publication 444-286



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Knowledge for the Commonwealth



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY