

# Field Ant



## **Appearance:**

Field ant workers measure about 1/4 inch long and may be brown, black, reddish or a combination of these colors. The thorax profile is not evenly rounded on upper side. There is a distinct notch halfway or so along the top surface of the thorax. The waist (pedicel) of the abdomen is 1-segmented (single node). Although no stinger is present, these ants will bite and spray pungent-smelling formic acid onto the persons or animals provoking them. Colony founding is usually by a single mated female (queen). Colony size varies considerably, for example, colonies of some species have nests of about 20,000-94,000 ants.

The common name of field ant probably comes from their abundance in outdoor situations. This is the largest genus of ants in America north of Mexico, containing about one-sixth of our entire ant fauna. Some species are commonly called thatching ants because of their habit of constructing a mound or thatch of plant material, often grass. They are found throughout the United States.

## **Habitat:**

Field ants are common in yards, landscaping, fields and wooded areas. They build medium-sized mounds up to 12 inches in diameter, but more often nest under stones, logs, landscape timbers and porch slabs.

## **Diet:**

Field ants rarely nest in homes but occasionally enter in search of sweets. Field and thatching ants feed primarily on honeydew from aphids (plant lice), mealy bugs, scale insects, etc. found on trees and shrubs. However, some are also general scavengers-predators and are attracted to meats.

## **Solutions:**

**What you can do:** One should quickly clean up food and beverage spills from floors, porches and decks (including pet food) to discourage foraging by these ants indoors and near residences / buildings. Field ants that occasionally enter buildings can be removed with a vacuum cleaner fitted with a hose attachment.

**Professional Solutions:** A Quik-Kill service technician will apply a perimeter treatment to discourage structural entrance by field ants. Spot treatments will be made to obvious mound nests located in the ground.



Visit our full pest library online at [www.quikkill.com/pestlibrary](http://www.quikkill.com/pestlibrary)  
For more information or to speak with our on-site Entomologist,  
contact us toll free at 1-800-525-0505 or on the web at [www.quikkill.com](http://www.quikkill.com)