

# INSECT REFERENCE

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## Nuisance ants, *Lasius neoniger*

### DESCRIPTION OF INSECT

Small (1/10 inch long), brown ants that create troublesome mounds on greens and tees.

Usually a beneficial insect that eats the eggs of white grubs and caterpillars

#### **Predictive models (degree day, plant phenology, threat temperatures, other)**

Become active once average air temperatures reach 55F (13C)

#### **Conducive environmental conditions:**

Average air temperatures > 55F (13 C)

Presence of root aphids in soil

#### **Geographic distribution:**

worldwide

### DAMAGE CAUSED:

#### **Plants attacked:**

Greens and tees: all turf varieties. Areas with sandy rootzone mixtures and located in sunny areas are most likely to suffer damage.

#### **Symptoms of damage:**

Small mounds, most abundant at the edges of greens and tees

Mounds are unsightly, dull mower blades, create a bumpy playing surface and can smother the turf underneath.

#### **Timing of damage:**

Springtime, through early summer. Mound building starts to decline in late summer.

### MONITORING TECHNIQUES:

Scout for mounds weekly, beginning in spring when average air temperatures exceed 55F (13C)

### THRESHOLDS:

None established.

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## MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES:

Follow resistance management guidelines by rotating products as outlined in IPM Template Reference "Insecticide Resistance Management Groups." Always consult the most recent version of all product labels before use.

Nuisance ant management strategies				
TYPE	TIMING/ THRESHOLD	PRACTICE		COMMENTS
Cultural	N/A	If ants are not causing significant damage with their mounds, try to avoid treating with insecticides! As mentioned above, they play an important role in natural control of even more serious pests such as grubs and caterpillars.		
Biological		No effective strategies known		
Chemical*	Curative: treat when mounds 1 <sup>st</sup> detected	Active Ingredient (Product)	Label signal word	Focus treatments on greens perimeter and collars. Control lasts 4-6 wks.
		Bifenthrin (Talstar)	Caution	
		Cyfluthrin (Tempo)	Caution	
		Chlorpyrifos (Dursban)	Danger	
		Deltamethrin (Deltagard)	Caution	
	Curative: treat when mounds 1 <sup>st</sup> detected.	<b>fipronil (Chipco Choice, Top Choice)*</b>	Caution	Control lasts 3 months. Must be applied by a PCO
	Curative: spot treat mounds	hydramethylnon (MaxForce)	Caution	Season-long control. The most effective treatment.
		abamectin (Advance Granular Carpenter Ant Bait)	Caution	

\*chemical products shown in green type are considered reduced risk by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency