



It's Really Going Places.

Best Management Practices

Ground Ants

Background: No insects cause so much personal annoyance as ants. They attempt to appropriate our food, invade our houses, disfigure our lawns and some even destroy window sills and woodwork. They can swarm into houses, getting into all kinds of food and becoming general nuisances. Ground ants consist of many species that live in colonies in the soil or, frequently in turfgrass areas and flower beds adjacent to the home.

Description: There are many species of ground ants including Argentine ant (*Linepithema humile*), Little black ant (*Monomorium minimum*), Odorous house ant (*Tapinoma sessile*) and Pharaoh ants (*Monomorium pharaonis*). These ant species are social insects that live in colonies or nests, which contain egg-laying queens, the young or larvae, pupae, and many worker ants. The workers, all sterile females, care for the colony as well as search for food and bring it to the nest. In the spring or fall, ant colonies may produce winged males and females which fly about, mate, and have the ability to start a new colony.

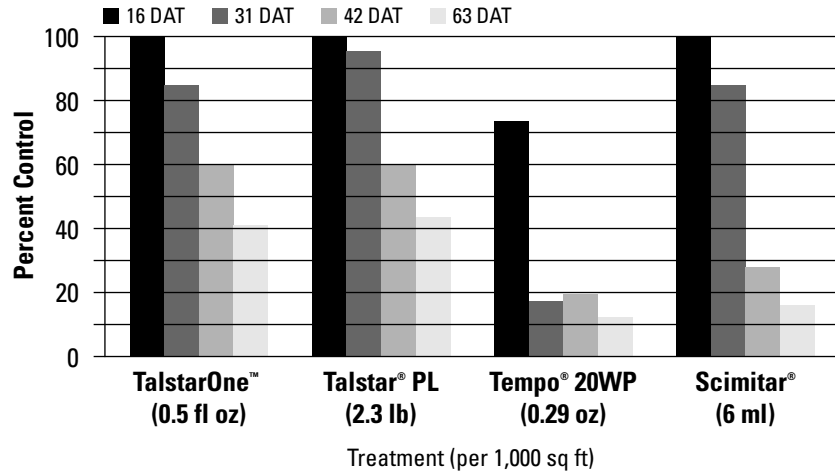
Management: The most effective and fastest way to control ground ants is to eliminate their food source and colonies, and create a protective barrier around the house through use of the Talstar® two-step program.

Step One is to eliminate existing ant colonies and trails. Use TalstarOne™ multi-insecticide to spray areas where ants are nesting or trailing, including trunks of trees and the base of plants touching the structure. Look for ant mounds and drench any nests found. Treat plants that may harbor food sources for ants along with trash cans and potted plants. Create a barrier by treating 3 feet up the side of the building, and barriers along fencelines, driveways, sidewalks and patios with TalstarOne™ multi-insecticide at 0.5-1 fl. oz./ 1000 sq. ft. Typical power spray rates are 10 fl. oz. of TalstarOne™ multi-insecticide per 50 gallons of water, applying 5 gallons of emulsion per 1000 sq. ft. It is best to apply TalstarOne™ multi-insecticide to concrete, building surfaces, and fences with a more concentrated mixture of 1 fl. oz. per gallon of water. These surfaces will not need high water volume sprays. A handheld or backpack sprayer works best when applying low water volumes of 1 gallon per 1000 sq.ft.

Step Two is to keep ants away for up to 6 months by creating a protective barrier. Apply a 10 ft. band of Talstar® PL granular or Talstar® EZ granular around the perimeter of the structure and areas with dense foliage, groundcover, mulch, leaf litter or rock. Talstar® granular insecticides penetrate to the soil where ants are found, controlling them and preventing nesting in these areas for 3 months. Use 2.3 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. in the spring and again 3 months later in the summer.

Trimming back plants that touch the structure, using baits, and actual locating and destroying of brood and satellite ant colonies may help provide longer more effective control of ant populations through time.

**TalstarOne™ and PL Insecticides
Ant (*Lasius neoniger*) Control**



Trial Conducted by: Dr. Harry Niemczyk, Ohio State University, 1997

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