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EXTENSION SERVICE
Fort Collins, Colorado

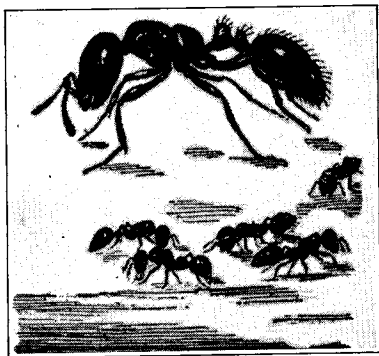
ANT CONTROL

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Ants can be controlled if careful and persistent effort is directed to the task. Since new colonies of ants may move into cleaned areas, the fight is a continuous one.

There are many different kinds of ants and sometimes more than one control method must be tried before an effective one is found.

A number of the most successful ant-control methods and formulas are given here. Regardless of the kind of ant that may be present, one or more of these controls should be effective.



Common ant. (Enlarged.)

Ants and Plant Lice.—Trees, shrubs, and flowers are frequently infested with aphids or plant lice. Honey dew secreted by aphids is an attractive ant food and ants are attracted for a considerable distance to infested trees. Under these conditions the easiest method of controlling ants is accomplished by destroying the aphids and then the ants.

Aphid Control Formula:

1 teaspoon of 40 percent nicotine sulfate
1-inch cube of soap 1 gallon of water.

Spray so as to wet thoroughly each aphid. Only those wet by the spray solution will be killed.

Fumigation of Ant Nests.—Always try to find the ant's nest. The most effective control is accomplished by fumigation of the nest. All of the treatments given here are destructive to vegetation in the immediate vicinity of the nest.

Carbon Disulfide Fumigation.—Make a small hole into center of the nest and pour 2 tablespoons of carbon disulfide into the hole and cover so as to confine the fumes.

Cyanide Fumigation.—Calcium cyanide placed in the opening of the nest and covered over or sodium or potassium cyanide dissolved in water and poured in nest.

Agricultural Ants.—The large nests or mounds of agricultural ants require the following amounts of fumigants:

For sodium cyanide, 1 ounce dissolved in 1 gallon of water.

For carbon disulphide, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup poured in nest after 1 gallon of water has been used to wet the nest.

Poison Baits.—Formula No. 1:

Tartar Emetic.....	1/2 teaspoon	Water	enough to moisten
Sugar	5 teaspoons	Bacon grease.....	2 teaspoons

Dissolve sugar in hot water, then add tartar emetic and bacon grease.

Formula No. 2:

Sodium Arsenite.....	1/3 ounce	Water	1 quart
Sugar	1 pound		

Dissolve sugar in hot water, then add sodium arsenite.

Formula No. 3:

Tartaric Acid.....	15 grains	Sugar	1 pound
Thallium Sulfate	27 grains	Water	1 pint
Honey	3 ounces		

Bring mixture to a boil and stir until thoroughly dissolved.

Poison baits should be placed on a sponge and the sponge then put in a glass jar with small holes punched in the cover. Lay the jar on its side so that ants can gain entrance into the jar through the holes. **Use caution at all times, so as not to place the jar where it can be reached by children and animals.**

Grease-Loving Ants.—Some ants prefer grease to sugars and syrup. Tartar emetic dusted over and worked into a fat bacon rind makes good bait for certain ants.

Poison Dust.—Sodium fluoride dusted in ant run-ways poisons them when they clean the powder from their feet. This is also an effective cockroach poison.

Sponge Trap.—A sponge moistened with syrup will attract many ants which can be destroyed by dipping the sponge in boiling water. Several repetitions of this treatment are required to get results.

Caution.—Cyanide compounds are exceedingly poisonous; the fumes from cyanide are also poisonous. Always avoid inhaling them.

Carbon disulfide is inflammable and explosive.

All baits given are poisonous to humans and animals and special caution should be employed to prevent them being placed where children or pets can reach them.

Pyrethrum and derris are two insecticides that are considered non-poisonous to humans and may be used to repel and drive ants away from places where the use of poisons is not advisable.

There are a large number of commercial ant poisons; the success from use of such poisons as well as the home formulas given here depends largely upon the persistence and careful work of the individual.

Additional information on insect pests may be obtained from your County Extension Agent or by writing the Entomology Department at Colorado State College, Fort Collins.

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F. A. ANDERSON, DIRECTOR

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