

# 2017 Fire Ant Control Materials for Alabama Homeowners

Many products for the control of fire ants are now on the market. Each year new products are introduced and old products may have new names. The products mentioned in this publication were found on the shelves of various lawn and garden centers, farmers cooperatives, and hardware stores during a spring 2017 survey of 21 stores in Alabama. They are intended for homeowners to use on lawns. Costs reflect average retail prices from the survey. Other materials may be available. Read the label to make sure a particular chemical is registered for your site.

This publication is a supplement to other publications and Web sites about fire ant biology and management. These resources can help you choose an approach to fire ant control that is low-cost, environmentally friendly, and perhaps less frustrating than what you are doing now. The following resource is recommended: Fire Ant Control: The Two-step Method and Other Approaches, found at [http://articles.extension.org/fire\\_ants](http://articles.extension.org/fire_ants).

**Broadcast treatments** involve applying the fire ant control chemical across the infested area. One advantage of broadcast treatments is that colonies may be controlled before mounds appear above the turf. Therefore, the need for continual treatment of visible mounds may be reduced. Broadcast baits (Table 1) are perceived as food and picked up by the worker ants and carried back to the nest, where they eventually reach the queen. In contrast, broadcast granular insecticides (Table 2) work by forming a relatively long-lasting insecticidal barrier on the soil surface. The residual control of a particular broadcast granular insecticide will depend on how long the active ingredient persists in the environment (half-life) and the total amount of active ingredient that is applied. The label on the product may indicate how long a particular product will provide fire ant control.

**Table 1.** Fire Ant Baits Designed to be Spread (Broadcast) Across the Infested Area, Arranged in Order of Cost Per Acre

Trade name (type of product)	Cost to treat (\$)		Active ingredient	Number of stores
	1,000 sq ft	1 acre <sup>1</sup>		
Amdro Fire Ant Bait	\$0.42	\$18	hydramethylnon	12
Amdro Pro Fire Ant Bait	\$0.45	\$20	hydramethylnon	1
Extinguish Plus Fire Ant Bait	\$0.51	\$22	(S)-methoprene and hydramethylnon	3
Ferti-lome Come and Get It	\$1.43	\$62	spinosad	3
Amdro Kills Fire Ants Yard Treatment Bait	\$2.97	\$130	(S)-methoprene and hydramethylnon	8

<sup>1</sup>An acre is 43,560 square feet. To determine the square footage of your yard, multiply the length in feet by the width in feet.

**Table 2.** Residual Insecticides Designed to be Spread (Broadcast) or Sprayed Over the Infested Area, Arranged in Reverse Order of the Half-Life of the Active Ingredient<sup>1</sup>

Trade name (type of product)	Active ingredient per acre (pounds) <sup>1</sup>	Cost to treat (\$)		Number of stores
		1,000 sq ft	1 acre <sup>2</sup>	
<b>Active ingredient bifenthrin (123-day half-life)<sup>1</sup></b>				
Talstar P Professional Insecticide (liquid concentrate)	0.17	\$0.70	\$31	1
Amdro Quick Kill Lawn Insect Killer Granules	0.08	\$1.20	\$52	2
Bifen I/T Insecticide/Termiticide (liquid concentrate)	0.23	\$1.43	\$62	5
Hi-Yield Ant Killer Granules	0.07	\$2.62	\$114	1
Hi-Yield Bug Blaster II Turf Insect Control Granules	0.25	\$2.78	\$121	4
Bifen L/P (granule)	0.20	\$2.87	\$125	1
KnockOut Fire Ant Killer Plus! Granules	0.08	\$3.08	\$134	1
Southern Ag Lawnstar Granular Insecticide	0.30	\$3.44	\$150	1
Ortho Fire Ant Killer Broadcast Granules	0.20	\$3.77	\$164	6
Martin's Surrender Insect Killer Granule	0.07	\$3.85	\$168	1
Talstar PL (granule)	0.30	\$3.86	\$168	1
<b>Active ingredient bifenthrin (123-day half-life) and zeta-cypermethrin (21-day half-life)</b>				
Talstar Xtra (granule)	0.38	\$5.23	\$228	1
Gardentech Over'n'Out! Advanced Fire Ant Killer (granule)	0.38	\$6.03	\$263	10
<b>Active ingredient gamma-cyhalothrin (30-day half-life)</b>				
Spectracide Triazicide Insect Killer For Lawns Granules	0.04	\$1.50	\$65	11
<b>Active ingredient lambda-cyhalothrin (30-day half-life)</b>				
Spectracide Fire Ant Shield Yard Protection Granules	0.09	\$2.54	\$111	5
Spectracide Ant Shield Insect Killer Granules	0.03	\$4.58	\$200	4
<b>Active ingredient deltamethrin (22-day half-life)</b>				
Hi-Yield Imported Fire Ant Control Granules Containing Deltamethrin	0.11	\$4.14	\$181	2

<sup>1</sup> A longer half-life will give longer control. A higher rate of active ingredient will give longer control.

<sup>2</sup> An acre is 43,560 square feet. To determine the square footage of your yard, multiply the length in feet by the width in feet.

**Individual mound treatments** alone are commonly done on turf sites of an acre or less, including lawns. Treatments are done as infestation occurs and mounds appear. It may be necessary to treat a colony more than once in order to kill the queen. Individual mound treatments can be used in combination with broadcast treatments, to eliminate annoying mounds before the broadcast material has taken effect, or to eliminate colonies that the broadcast treatment may have missed. Insecticide mound treatments include dusts, granules, baits, and drenches (Table 3). *Always apply insecticides according to label directions.* In the case of fire ant mound treatments, most product labels state specifically where the dosage should be placed. Never apply more than the labeled dosage. In addition to being costly and illegal, overapplication may simply encourage the colony to relocate a few feet away from the original mound.

**Table 3.** Products Used as Individual Mound Treatments to Control Fire Ants, Arranged in Order of Cost per 10 Mounds

Trade name (type of product) <sup>1</sup>	Cost to treat 10 mounds	Active ingredient	Number of stores
Eliminator Ant, Flea & Tick Killer PLUS Granules	\$0.09	bifenthrin	2
Eliminator Fire Ant Killer PLUS Granules	\$0.16	bifenthrin	2
Hi-Yield Turf Ranger Insect Control Granules	\$0.44	deltamethrin	2
Martin's Surrender Insect Killer Granule	\$0.54	bifenthrin	1
KnockOut Ant, Flea & Tick Killer <sup>II</sup> Granules	\$0.63	bifenthrin	1
Hi-Yield Vegetable and Ornamental Insect Control Granules	\$0.66	bifenthrin	2
Hi-Yield Imported Fire Ant Control Granules Containing Deltamethrin	\$0.67	deltamethrin	2
Bengal UltraDust 2X Fire Ant Killer (dust)	\$0.80	deltamethrin	13
Amdro Kills Ants & Spiders Granules	\$0.89	bifenthrin	2
Bayer Advanced Fire Ant Killer (dust)	\$0.98	beta-cyfluthrin	7
KnockOut Fire Ant Killer Plus! Granules	\$1.07	bifenthrin	1
Spectracide Ant Shield Insect Killer Granules	\$1.43	lambda-cyhalothrin	4
Bayer Advanced Lawn Complete Insect Killer for Soil & Turf (granule)	\$1.48	imidacloprid plus beta-cyfluthrin	4
Monterey Vegetable Garden Soil Insecticide (granule)	\$1.57	bifenthrin	2
Eliminator Fire Ant Killer with Acephate (dust)	\$1.67	acephate	2
Amdro Quick Kill Outdoor Insect Killer Concentrate	\$1.76	zeta-cypermethrin	3
Martin's Surrender Fire Ant Killer (dust)	\$1.84	acephate	4
Ortho Orthene Fire Ant Killer (dust)	\$2.05	acephate	9
Bifen I/T Insecticide/Termiticide (liquid concentrate)	\$2.28	bifenthrin	5
Spectracide Fire Ant Shield Mound Destroyer Granules	\$2.31	lambda-cyhalothrin	12
Home Front Yard and Garden Insect Killer Concentrate	\$2.41	permethrin	1
Bifen L/P (granule)	\$2.46	bifenthrin	1
Southern Ag Lawnstar Granular Insecticide	\$2.46	bifenthrin	1
Hi-Yield Fire Ant Control with Acephate (dust)	\$2.48	acephate	3
Permetrol Lawn Insecticide Granules	\$2.50	permethrin	1
Terro Ant Dust	\$2.54	deltamethrin	4
Revenge Ant Killer Dust	\$2.60	deltamethrin	2
Talstar PL (granule)	\$2.76	bifenthrin	1
Bayer Advanced Carpenter Ant & Termite Killer Plus Concentrate	\$3.12	beta-cyfluthrin	5
Terro Ant Killer Plus Multi-Purpose Insect Control <sub>2</sub> Outdoor (granule)	\$3.22	lambda-cyhalothrin	7
Talstar Xtra (granule)	\$3.60	bifenthrin and zeta-cypermethrin	1
Martin's Permethrin 10% Multi-purpose Insecticide (liquid concentrate)	\$3.94	permethrin	2
Ortho Fire Ant Killer Mound Treatment (granule)	\$3.96	bifenthrin	4
Ortho Fire Ant Killer Broadcast Granules	\$4.05	bifenthrin	6
Gardentech Over'n'Out! Advanced Fire Ant Killer (granule)	\$4.15	bifenthrin and zeta-cypermethrin	10
Bonide Eight Insect Control (liquid concentrate)	\$4.60	permethrin	1
Bonide Ant, Flea, and Tick Killer Granules	\$4.84	permethrin	1
Hi-Yield Bug Blaster Bifenthrin 2.4 (liquid concentrate)	\$4.87	bifenthrin	5

**Table 3.** continued

Trade name (type of product) <sup>1</sup>	Cost to treat 10 mounds (\$)	Active ingredient	Number of stores
Martin's Cyonara Lawn & Garden Insect Control (liquid concentrate)	\$5.14	lambda-cyhalothrin	2
Amdro Fire Ant Bait	\$5.26	hydramethylnon	12
Amdro Pro Fire Ant Bait	\$5.72	hydramethylnon	1
Gardentech Over'n'Out! Advanced Fire Ant Killer Mound Eliminator (granule)	\$5.83	bifenthrin and zeta-cypermethrin	2
Hi-Yield Kill-A-Bug II Lawn Granules	\$5.87	permethrin	1
Ecologic Lawn & Yard Insect Killer Concentrate <sub>2</sub>	\$6.07	lemongrass oil	4
Ferti-lome Come and Get It (bait)	\$6.61	spinosad	3
Ortho Fire Ant Killer Mound Bait	\$6.97	indoxacarb	3
Revenge Ant Killer Granules	\$7.10	lambda-cyhalothrin	1
Extinguish Plus Fire Ant Bait	\$7.39	(S)-methoprene and hydramethylnon	3
Talstar P Professional Insecticide (liquid concentrate)	\$9.37	bifenthrin	1
Amdro Ant Block Home Perimeter Ant Bait	\$9.50	hydramethylnon	9
Compare-N-Save Concentrated Indoor/Outdoor Insect Control (liquid concentrate)	\$10.93	bifenthrin	1
Hi-Yield Indoor/Outdoor Broad Use Insecticide (liquid concentrate)	\$11.45	permethrin	3
Hi-Yield Lawn, Garden, Pet & Livestock Insect Control (liquid concentrate)	\$12.21	permethrin	2
Ferti-lome Borer, Bagworm, Leaf Miner, and Tent Caterpillar Spray (liquid concentrate)	\$16.86	spinosad	2
Enforcer Ant & Insect Barrier Treatment III (granule)	\$19.32	permethrin	1
Monterey Garden Insect Spray (liquid concentrate)	\$19.97	spinosad	3
Martin's Permethrin SFR Termiticide/Insecticide (liquid concentrate)	\$21.60	permethrin	3
Bonide Captain Jack's Deadly Brew Insecticide (liquid concentrate)	\$22.26	spinosad	3
Hi-Yield 38 Plus Turf, Tree, and Ornamental Insect Control (liquid concentrate)	\$22.27	permethrin	10
Termite Kill III (liquid concentrate)	\$23.00	permethrin	1
Essentria All Purpose Insecticide (liquid concentrate) Concentrate	\$56.25	rosemary and peppermint oil	1
Cyper WSP (wetable powder)	\$58.75	cypermethrin	3
Demon WP Water Soluble Packet (wetable powder)	\$75.66	cypermethrin	1
Enforcer BugMax Insect Killer Concentrate	\$108.48	deltamethrin	1

<sup>1</sup>Type of product is included when it is not indicated by the trade name.



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Use pesticides only according to the directions on the label. Follow all directions, precautions, and restrictions that are listed. Do not use pesticides on plants that are not listed on the label. The pesticide rates in this publication are recommended only if they are registered with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries. If a registration is changed or cancelled, the rate listed here is no longer recommended. Before you apply any pesticide, fungicide or herbicide, check with your county Extension agent for the latest information. Trade names are used only to give specific information. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System does not endorse or guarantee any product and does not recommend one product instead of another that might be similar.

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