



Red imported fire ant  
(*Solenopsis invicta*)

# Invasive ant pests

**They may be tiny but don't be fooled! Invasive ants are amongst the most serious global pests.**

Native ants play an important role in maintaining healthy ecosystems, but invasive ants are aggressive and can displace native ants.

If introduced they can spread quickly, dominating new environments and potentially having catastrophic impacts on native plants and animals, agriculture, human health, lifestyle and even the economy.

## Help keep WA free from invasive ants

Get up close and personal with the ants around you. Being aware of these ants will make it easier to spot an intruder!



# High risk ants for Western Australia



## African black sugar ant (*Lepisiota incisa*)

Dark brown and shiny, about 2 mm in length. These ants form super-colonies and can reach large numbers very quickly.



## Browsing ant (*Lepisiota frauenfeldi*)

Shiny dark brown colour all over, 3 mm – 4 mm in length. They form super colonies and run haphazardly when disturbed.

Image: Copyright@Carlos Pradera



## Red imported fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta*)

Shiny dark brown colour all over, 3 mm – 4 mm in length. They form super colonies and run haphazardly when disturbed.

Image: Copyright@United States Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service



## Electric ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*)

Ginger colour, tiny (about 1.5 mm long) and slow moving with a painful, long-lasting sting. Attracted to pet food and will attack pets.

Image: Copyright@Carlos Pradera



## Yellow crazy ant (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*)

Yellow to brownish colour with dark brown (sometimes stripy) abdomen, about 5 mm long with a long slender body, legs and antennae. Movement is erratic and may spray formic acid when disturbed.

Image: Copyright@Karthik



## Tropical fire ant (*Solenopsis geminata*)

Shiny brown-orange body with a range of sizes (3 mm – 8 mm). Some have an oversized square head. Can be aggressive with a painful sting. Known to eat eggs of birds, reptiles and amphibians.

Image: Copyright@Meghan Cassidy



## Report your observations

MyPestGuide® Reporter  
via app or online  
[mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au](http://mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au)

Pest and Disease Information Service  
08 9368 3080  
[padis@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:padis@dpird.wa.gov.au)