

Red Imported Fire Ant

Solenopsis invicta

Family: Formicidae

Size: 1/16" to 1/4" (25-32 mm)

Range: Southeastern United States



Hanna Smith

The infamous Fire Ant. Farmers and homeowners in the southeast have been battling these insects in the landscape in almost a third of the counties in North Carolina. Considered omnivorous, these ants will chew at roots, stems, buds, and fruits of various agricultural as well as ornamental crops and plants. They also can be effective predators, feeding on other insects and even taking down larger prey with their mandibles. Older colonies have at least one queen, sometimes multiple, that each lay around 200 eggs in a single day. The workers can sometimes be pugnacious, delivering a painful sting to someone or something that may get too close for comfort.

More Information: http://go.ncsu.edu/red_imported_fire_ant

Reference:

Evans, Arthur V., (2008). *National Wildlife Federation Field Guide to Insects and Spiders of North America*. Andrew Stewart Publishing ed. Pg. 378

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