

# Fact sheet

October 2019

## *Camponotus* species

### Summary

Native ants of the genus *Camponotus* (*Camponotus* spp.) are harmless ants that do not sting and are commonly called night ants because of their nocturnal habits. There are dozens of *Camponotus* species native to Western Australia.

### Where are they found?

These ants nest outside in woodpiles, old trees and in the ground.



### Damage

They will never directly damage solid timber, but they often take advantage of deteriorating wood, such as rot or termite damage. They do not cause any structural damage or nest indoors.

### Treatment

Normally these ants do not cause any problems and are of no concern. If control is necessary inside, these ants can be attracted to liquid ant baits (especially at night). These baits often contain borax as the active ingredient and are intended for use indoors. They are available from garden centres, hardware stores and supermarkets. If the problem is more extensive, treatment outdoors with a residual spray available from a garden centre or hardware store can offer control. Wettable powders containing permethrin or surface sprays can also be used at entry points to discourage the ants from entering buildings.

### Watch out!

Ants are often difficult to identify! There are a number of ants that have not established in Western Australia, but could significantly impact our outdoor lifestyle and WA's agricultural industries and environment. See overleaf for reportable species!

# Exotic ant threats to WA

Under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) the introduction of these ants into WA is prohibited and **any suspect sightings must be reported**. Below are a few species we are particularly concerned about.



## Browsing ant (*Lepisiota frauenfeldi*)

Native to southern Europe, they thrive in a Mediterranean climate and are ideally suited to Australian conditions. These aggressive ants form multi-queened super-colonies, quickly reaching very high populations and displacing native ant species and other invertebrates. They are also a significant horticultural and domestic pest. There have been a number of incursions in Australia, although all known infestations are under eradication.



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

One of the most serious ant pests in the world. These ants are aggressive, particularly near the nest and inflict a painful sting. They are present in south east Queensland and they could accidentally be imported into Western Australia.



## Electric ants (*Wasmannia auropunctata*)

One of the world's worst invasive species, with a painful sting that will impact on outdoor lifestyle, the environment and agricultural industries. These ants are currently in northern Queensland and eradication efforts are underway.



## Yellow crazy ants (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*)

Ability to spray formic acid which causes burning and irritates the skin and eyes of animals and humans. Found in the Pacific region and on Christmas Island, this ant has also spread extensively since arriving in Queensland.



## Carpenter ants (*Camponotus* spp.)

Elsewhere in the world there are *Camponotus* species that are pests of timber and like termites, if left unchecked can cause extensive damage to structural timber and furniture.

## Reporting options

Report unfamiliar, problematic or possible exotic pests via the options below:

- Pest and Disease Information Service (08) 9368 3080 or [padis@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:padis@dpird.wa.gov.au)
- MyPestGuide™ Reporter App
- [mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au](http://mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au)

For more information, see [agric.wa.gov.au/ants](http://agric.wa.gov.au/ants)

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