

ALLEGHENY MOUND ANT



DESCRIPTION

The Allegheny Mound Ant is a type of ant native to the Atlantic area of North America. Often very striking in appearance, these ants have a red-orange head and thorax with black-brown gasters (behind the abdomen). They have 1 node. Mound ants are generally between 1/8" and 1/4" long.

HABITS

The ant's colonies are complex, having several different mounds that may be interconnected. The tunnels may extend 3 feet (0.91 m) into the ground and 4 feet (1.2 m) upwards in the mound. The mound serves as a solar incubator for the eggs and larvae.

Unlike most other ants, Allegheny Mound Ants have multiple queens. The worker ants have a lifespan of 2.5 to 3 months. This species of ant feeds on dead insects and aphid honeydew.

These ants hibernate in the tunnelways of a mound below the soil surface. Foraging for food begins when the colony becomes active in the spring. For food, workers attack and dismember beetles, sowbugs, spiders, small caterpillar larvae, and many other arthropods that the ants can overcome. The other type of food they seek is honeydew, which is produced by sap-sucking insects like aphids, scale insects and treehoppers.

CONTROL

To control the Allegheny Mound Ant, you need to treat the ant hill.

1. Use a rake to disrupt the hill.
2. Sprinkle a properly labeled insect dust on the entire ant hill.
3. Lightly water the dust so it stays in place.
4. After 7 days, repeat if necessary.