

ANTS AND THEIR CONTROL

by Stanley Rachesky
Entomologist, University of Illinois

Ants live in colonies or nests, usually located in the soil alongside a foundation, or in a turf. Occasionally, however, their nest may be under the concrete slab or in a crawl space of a building.

The ant colony is composed of a queen, whose function is to lay eggs; worker ants that attend the queen, the eggs, the legless larvae, and the pupae, and the worker ants that forage for food, which they carry back to the colony to feed the queen, her attendants, and the young. When foraging for food, they enter buildings and are a nuisance.

Some species of ants feed on greases, others on sugars. Ants will also feed on seeds, insects, and other materials. Some species are called aphid attendants because they transport aphids or plant lice from plant to plant and utilize the sugar secretions from aphids as their food. Sometimes ants become so numerous in turf and flower gardens that they become a nuisance outdoors as well as indoors.

The most satisfactory and safest method of controlling ants is to use 2 per cent chlordane as a water-diluted spray. Apply this spray to the outside foundation of the building from the soil to the sill area with a 3 gallon-tank-type sprayer. Also spray a 2- to 4-inch strip of soil alongside the foundation. Crawl-space areas may need treatment if the ants are entering from this area. A repeat application may be required. Ordinarily, 3 or 6 gallons of diluted spray is sufficient for the average building.

One pint of 45 per cent chlordane diluted with 2½ gallons of water makes a 2 per cent chlordane spray. Applications must be thorough. Spray all the way around the building, behind concrete steps, and into any cracks or crevices of concrete slabs that abut the foundation.

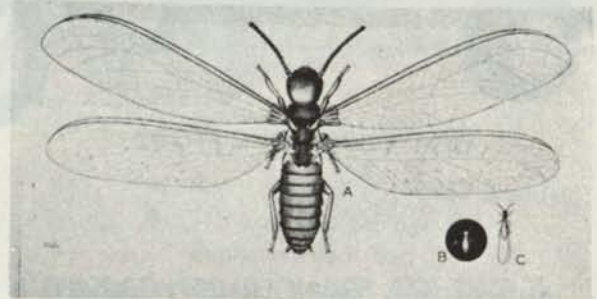
In addition to ants, foundation sprays will also help to reduce or eliminate infestations of many outdoor pests that migrate into buildings. Oriental roaches, wood roaches, crickets, centipedes, millipedes, and spiders will be noticeably scarce.

Carpenter ants are one of the largest types of ants found in Illinois. They are black and vary from ¼ to ½ inch in length. Some forms are winged and others are wingless.

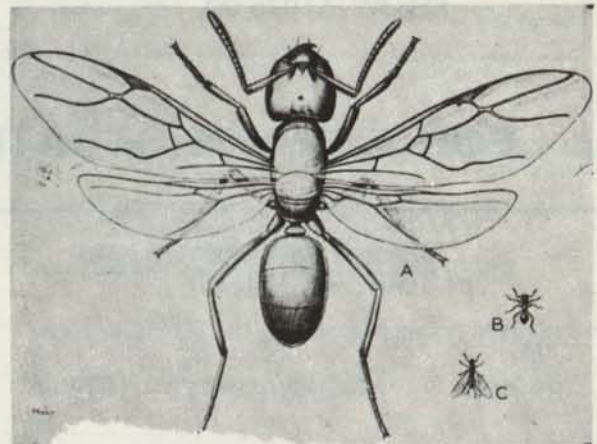
These insects do not eat wood, but tunnel in it to make their nests. They attack the wood in building logs, telephone poles, and even tree cavities. They are much less damaging than termites, however, and probably should be classified mainly as a nuisance.

Carpenter ants forage in buildings, feeding on dead insects, fruit, garbage, and almost any carbohydrate or protein type of food. During warm months they forage outside as well. The galleries of carpenter ants are clean and are cut across the grain of the wood. In contrast, termites produce grayish stained galleries running with the grain. Carpenter ants throw out coarse sawdust when building these galleries. They do not produce a fine powder as the powder-post beetle do.

Carpenter ants are somewhat hard to control because the nests require direct treatment. Once you locate the nest entrances, apply 5 per cent chlordane or 10 per cent DDT dusts in the galleries. Oil sprays of 2 percent chlordane or 5 percent DDT will also give good results when applied to ant runways or to decaying wood. During the warmer months, treat the sill areas, the outside area of the foundation, and a foot or more of soil adjacent to the foundation. For outside spraying, use the emulsion forms of these insecticides.



Enlarged view of winged termite



Enlarged view of winged ant

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