DO YOUR PART

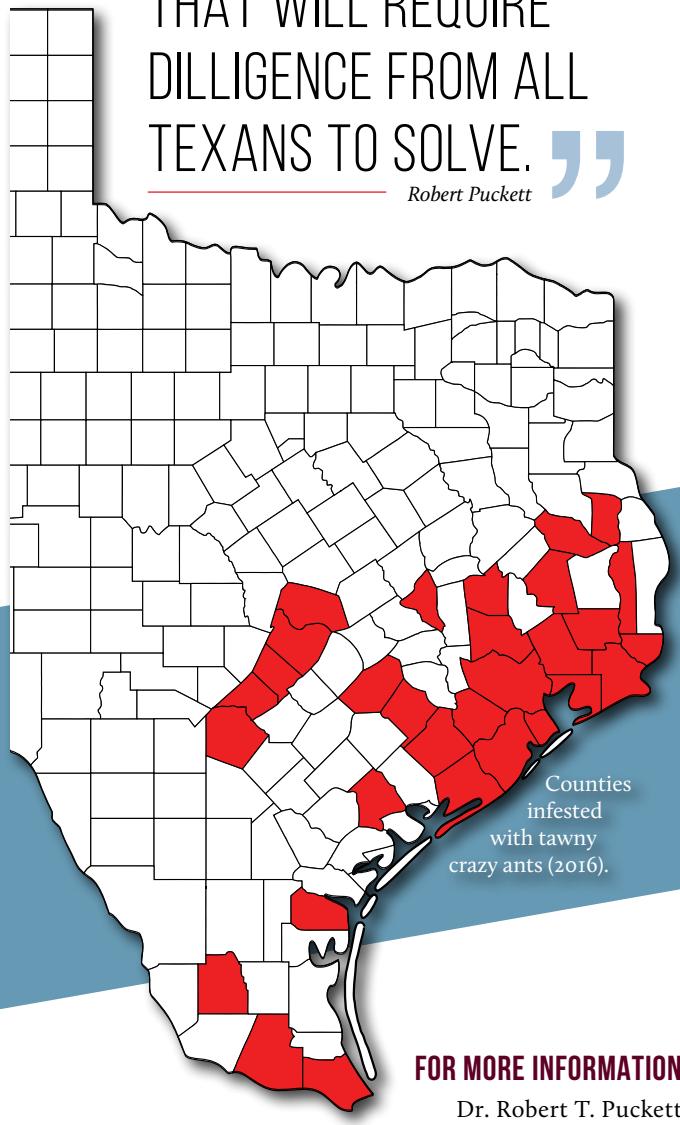
- **Acquire** landscaping materials from trusted dealers who diligently inspect their products and treat or destroy materials that contain invasive ants.
- **Confirm** that the vendor has examined all materials for the presence of tawny crazy ants.
- **Check** felled trees before mulching or stump grinding; avoid infested areas.
- **Inspect** all landscaping and building materials before transporting them to any non-infested site.
- **Hold** landscaping material for 24 to 48 hours on asphalt or cement and inspect for ants before installation.

HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF TAWNY CRAZY ANTS

SEND ANT SPECIMENS TO

Rollins Urban and Structural Entomology Facility
Texas A&M University
2143 TAMU | 2556 F&B Road, Bldg. 1804
College Station, TX 77843-2143

> "TAWNY CRAZY ANTS REPRESENT A **TEXAS-SIZE PROBLEM** THAT WILL REQUIRE DILLIGENCE FROM ALL TEXANS TO SOLVE."
>
> *Robert Puckett*



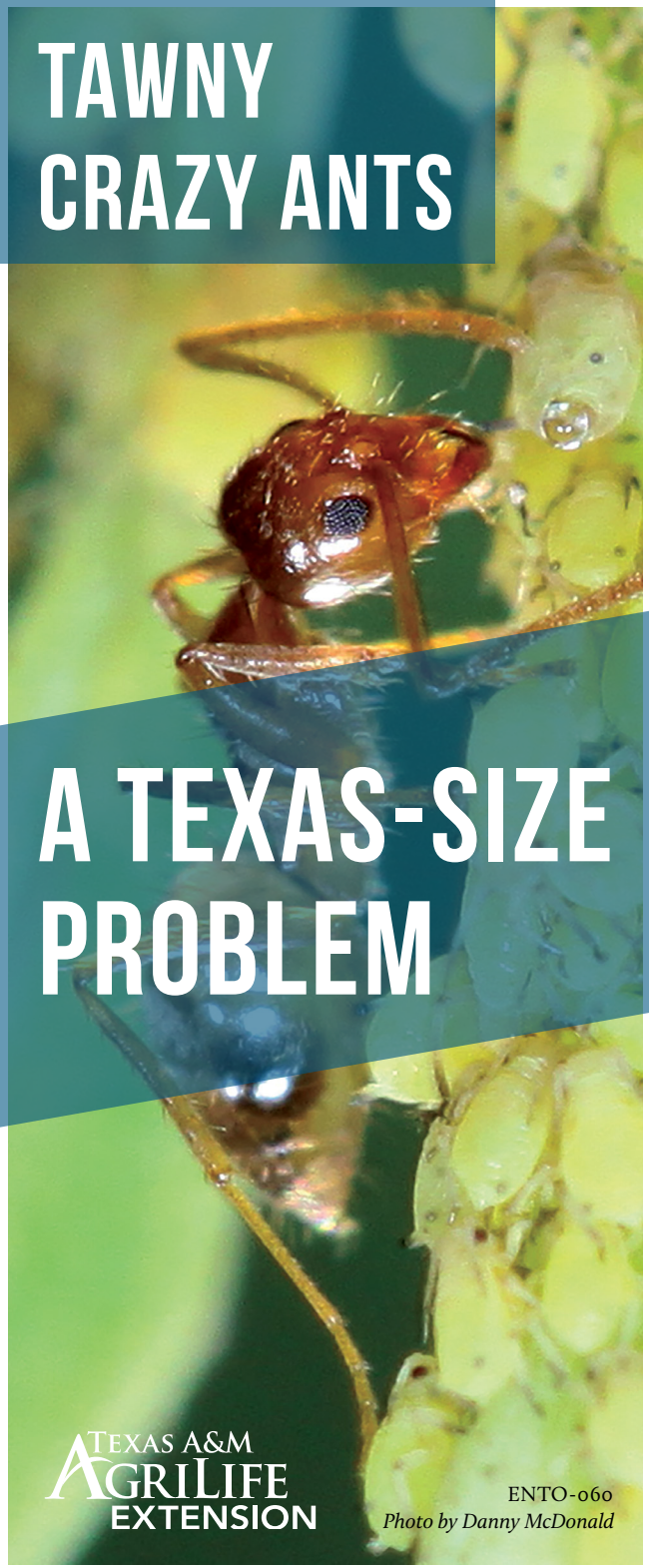
Counties infested with tawny crazy ants (2016).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Dr. Robert T. Puckett
Assistant Professor and Extension Entomologist
rpuck@tamu.edu | urbanentomology.tamu.edu

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider. (9/16, New)

TAWNY CRAZY ANTS



A TEXAS-SIZE PROBLEM

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

ENTO-060

Photo by Danny McDonald



Tawny crazy ant queen, brood, and workers. Photo by Danny McDonald

BIOLOGY AND BEHAVIOR

- Extraordinarily dense populations
- Multiple-queen colonies (allows for prolific reproductive capabilities and helps them invade new areas)
- Resemblance to (and often confused with) many common native ant species
- Loose and erratic foraging trails
- Nest under any available material such as debris, landscaping objects, and potted plants
- No conspicuous mounds (unlike red imported fire ants)
- Terrestrial and arboreal (readily move onto trees and shrubs)

AN INVASIVE PEST ANT SPECIES

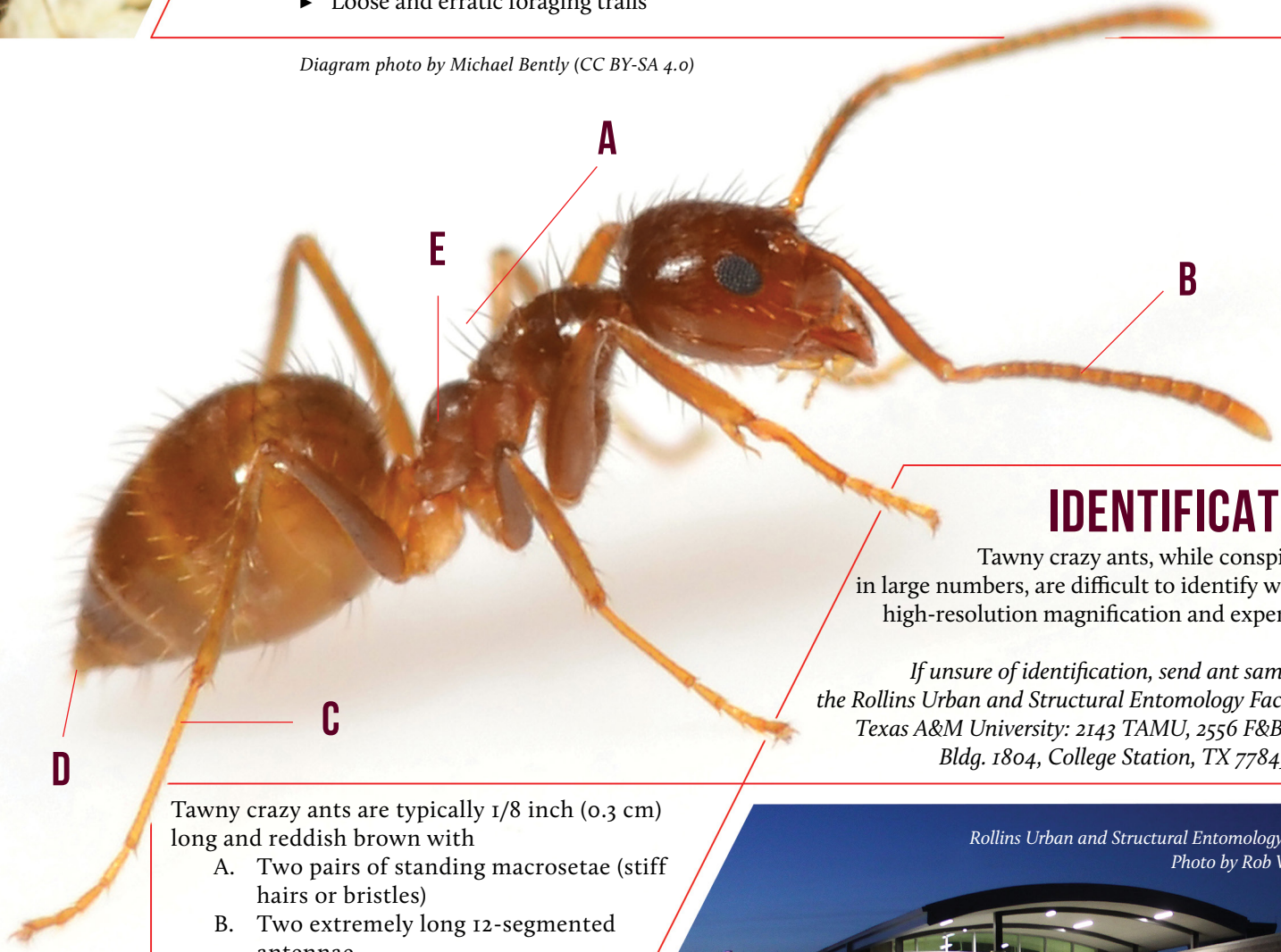
Since 2002, tawny crazy ants, *Nylanderia fulva* (formerly Rasberry crazy ants), have expanded their range in Texas to include 30 counties, assisted by humans moving infested materials such as plants, building materials, mulch, yard debris, and hay bales.

In infested urban habitats, tawny crazy ants become an extreme nuisance as they forage around, on, and inside structures. They also damage and destroy electrical components and equipment.

Tawny crazy ants can decrease arthropod diversity (such as insects, spiders, ticks, and centipedes) in the systems they invade.

A serious pest of agriculture, they can infest hay bales and have been known to take over commercial honeybee colonies. They also protect honeydew-producing insects (aphids and scale insects) to feed on the honeydew these pests produce. This interaction helps populations of honeydew-producing insects increase to densities that can cause serious damage to ornamental and agriculturally important plants.

Diagram photo by Michael Bently (CC BY-SA 4.0)



IDENTIFICATION

Tawny crazy ants, while conspicuous in large numbers, are difficult to identify without high-resolution magnification and experience.

If unsure of identification, send ant samples to the Rollins Urban and Structural Entomology Facility at Texas A&M University: 2143 TAMU, 2556 F&B Road, Bldg. 1804, College Station, TX 77843-2143.

Tawny crazy ants are typically 1/8 inch (0.3 cm) long and reddish brown with

A. Two pairs of standing macrosetae (stiff hairs or bristles)
B. Two extremely long 12-segmented antennae
C. Six long legs
D. Circle of small hairs at tip of abdomen
E. One abdominal node



Rollins Urban and Structural Entomology Facility Photo by Rob Williams

VISIT **URBANENTOMOLOGY.TAMU.EDU** TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TAWNY CRAZY ANTS.

Controlling Tawny Crazy Ant with Termidor® SC Termiticide/Insecticide and Alpine® WSG Water Soluble Granule Insecticide



These ants are rapidly spreading throughout Texas and the Gulf Coast states. They are becoming one of the most significant nuisance ants in that geographic region due to their ability to infest areas in and around homes, warehouses, industrial concerns, etc., even invading electrical switch boxes and causing shortages. In areas of heavy infestation, it can be nearly impossible for homeowners and companion animals to spend time in their yard without unwanted encounters with these pests.





Why are they so dominant?

Since their discovery in Texas in 2002, tawny crazy ants have exhibited the ability to successfully establish themselves. A primary reason for this is that they are able to aggressively outcompete red imported fire ants. They are able to do this in part because of their very large colony sizes and, as one study revealed, because of their ability to secrete a substance that essentially renders the venom from the red imported fire ant ineffective. (*LeBrun, Science, 14 Feb 2014*). In summary, the ability of the tawny crazy ant to outcompete the fire ant is a primary reason they have been so successful in becoming established and continuing their spread.

The solution: The duo of Alpine® WSG Water Soluble Granule insecticide and Termidor® SC termiticide/insecticide

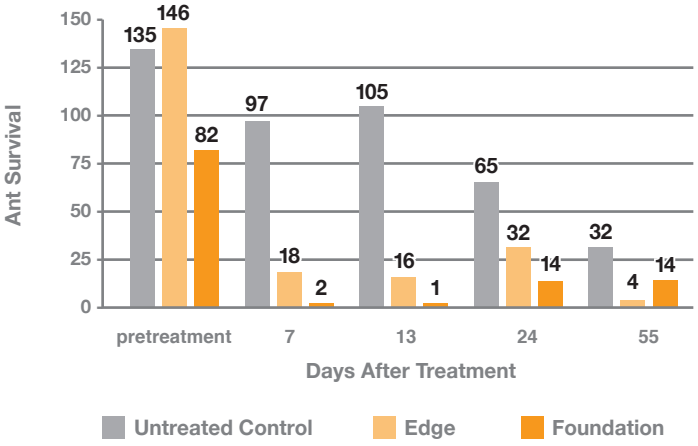
BASF has developed an innovative solution to improve upon the efficacy of **Termidor SC** termiticide/insecticide Section 18 Quarantine Exemption label treatments. The new solution combines the **Termidor SC** termiticide/insecticide Section 18 Quarantine Exemption label treatment with **Alpine WSG** insecticide, a treatment solution that has proven to be more efficacious than a **Termidor SC** termiticide/insecticide treatment alone. The charts on the following page compare the combination of **Termidor SC** termiticide/insecticide and **Alpine WSG** insecticide versus treatment with **Termidor SC** termiticide/insecticide Section 18 Quarantine Exemption alone. The charts indicate a significant improvement at the edge of the 10-foot barrier at 55 days post-treatment. The “edge” represents the incoming populations that will attempt to invade the structure, and is therefore a critical component of a complete tawny crazy ant treatment. This new treatment protocol can provide an improvement in efficacy, potentially allowing for a change in treatment.

Product Bulletin

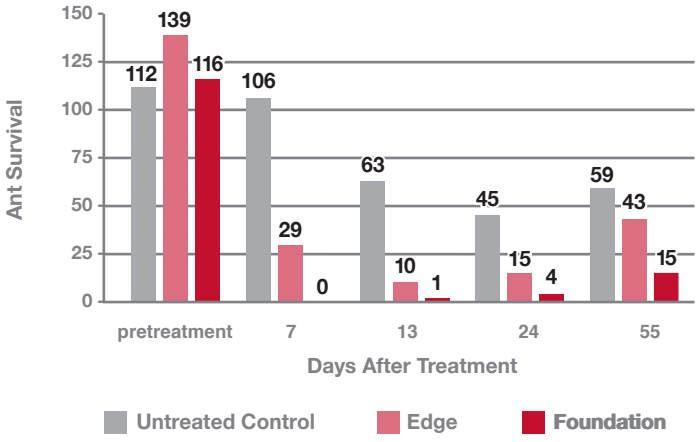
BASF
We create chemistry

Field Efficacy of Termidor® SC Termiticide/Insecticide and Alpine® WSG Water Soluble Granule Insecticide on Tawny Crazy Ants (*Nylanderia fulva*) in LA

Termidor (0.06%)
Section 18: 3 ft up/10 ft out and Alpine WSG (0.10%)



Termidor (0.06%)
Section 18: 3 ft up/10 ft out



D. Ring, Louisiana State University and McKenzie Pest Control, 2013

Termidor SC termiticide/insecticide Section 18 Quarantine Exemption use for tawny crazy ants has been extended until October 1, 2019 for Louisiana and April 1, 2019 for Mississippi and Texas. These exemptions allow alternate uses of **Termidor SC** termiticide/insecticide, such as nest treatments, perimeter treatments of 3 ft up by 10 ft out, treatments up to 10 feet around electrical wires, and broadcast treatments applied two times per year per structure.

For more information, please visit pestcontrol.basf.us or contact your BASF sales representative.

Always read and follow label directions.

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MAJESTIC HILLS | FALL COMMUNITY UPDATE

Tawny Crazy Ant Update

Formerly called Rasberry crazy ants • Nylanderia fulva

Where we are seeing them

Adjacent acreages are infested
Parts of Majestic Hills are affected
Highest pressure: front gate and northern lots
Confirmed at the Homestead property

Treatments to date

Mailbox and front gate
Water cistern and well house
Front gate transformer and electricals
Applications from late spring through fall

What to expect

Treatments have provided about 8–12 weeks of relief per event
Area pressure remains high
Ongoing monitoring and treatment will be needed

Homeowner action

1 Watch for heavy trailing ant activity around the exterior foundation of the home and landscaping.
2 If present, contact your pest professional about appropriate exterior treatments around foundations, electrical equipment and landscaping.
3 Ant activity will decrease during cooler periods; late fall, winter and early spring.
4 Share Texas A&M resource with your pest professional. I am available as a resource if they have questions (robert.davis@basf.com).

https://urbanentomology.tamu.edu/urban-pests/ants/rasberry/

Texas A&M Urban & Structural Entomology: urbanentomology.tamu.edu/urban-pests/ants/rasberry/

Internal

NEIGHBORHOOD MAINTENANCE

Entry Way & Community Thanks

Fall entry-way work

With moderate fall temperatures, planned work includes (get ready volunteers!):

1. **Dead tree removal** — Improve appearance and address declining trees.
2. **Lower-branch trimming** — Open sight lines and tidy the entry landscape, allow for safe mowing.
3. **Fertilizer + weed protection** — Support turf and landscape health

THANK YOU

Neighbors making a difference

To the individual(s) who cleaned the mailbox fronts and entry-way light fixtures: Nice work!

Mark Barnaby

Thank you for fixing the lawn sprinkler leak.

Thank you for helping keep Majestic Hills looking its best.