

RED IMPORTED FIRE ANTS

In November 2014, a colony of Red Imported Fire Ants, a serious exotic pest, was detected at a port facility at Port Botany, Sydney NSW.

Following extensive baiting and surveillance, no further detections of the pest have been reported.

To ensure this serious pest has been eliminated and hasn't spread, the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and Local Land Services are undertaking extensive surveillance throughout July and August 2015.

Red Imported Fire Ants are a serious exotic pest, known to be highly aggressive and can inflict painful bites and stings on people, pets and livestock. They pose a serious social, economic and environmental threat.

For further information please visit the DPI website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au



CONTACTS:
EXOTIC PEST PLANT HOTLINE
1800 084 881
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au
biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au

WHEN WILL THE SURVEILLANCE OPERATION OCCUR?

The DPI and Local Land Services will undertake extensive surveillance throughout **July** and **August 2015**.

Trained inspectors from DPI and Local Land Services will be joined by volunteers from the NSW State Emergency Service and NSW Rural Fire Service.

Staff will inspect residential properties as well as business premises within a 2 km radius of the original infestation.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR?

Red Imported Fire Ant nests often look like disturbed soil or a small mound of soil with no visible entry holes. Fire ants can also nest under logs, garden materials, hay or in electrical infrastructure.

Small ants of various sizes (2 to 6 mm in length) that are reddish-brown in colour, with a darker abdomen.



WHAT YOU CAN DO?

Regularly inspect your property for any sign of ants or nests and report any suspicious sightings immediately, as this pest can spread rapidly.

Do not disturb the ants or nests or try to treat the infestation yourself. The ants can be aggressive and can inflict painful bites and stings.

Anyone who suspects the presence of this serious pest should immediately contact the **Exotic Plant Pest Hotline** on **1800 084 881**.