



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND, PACIFIC REGION
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, HAWAII
745 WRIGHT AVENUE, BUILDING 107, WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD
SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HAWAII 96857-5000

IMHW-PW

20 January 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR All Military Personnel and Department of Defense Civilian Employees within United States Army Garrison, Hawaii (USAG-HI) Installations

SUBJECT: Avoidance of Little Fire Ant Introduction

1. References.

a. Army Regulation (AR) 200-1, Environmental Protection and Enhancement, 13 Dec 07.

b. Sikes Act, 16 USC 670a-670o, as amended through Public Law 118-84, Enacted 28 Oct 09.

c. Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 4715.03, 18 Mar 11.

d. Executive Order 13112, Invasive Species, 3 Feb 99.

e. USAG-HI Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, 2010-2014.

2. Applicability. This policy applies to all Soldiers, Civilians, Family members, contractors, and any other person, ("covered person"), who installs landscaping on any U.S. Army installation, facility, housing area, or work site in the State of Hawaii, ("covered area"). This policy also applies to all products sold at the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, including but not limited to: plants, mulch, and wood products.

3. Policy.

a. Protecting our environment is one of the most important aspects of accomplishing the USAG-HI mission. USAG-HI is committed to reducing the spread of invasive species that harm the local Hawaiian environment. Invasive species are often unintended hitchhikers on cargo and other trade conveyances. Still more species are deliberately introduced as pets, ornamental plants, crops, food, or for recreation, pest control or other purposes. Most non-native species, including most of our sources of food and fiber, are not harmful, and many are highly beneficial. A small percentage of non-native species cause great harm to the environment, the economy or human health. Non-native species that cause harm are collectively known as invasive species.

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SUBJECT: Avoidance of Little Fire Ant Introduction

b. USAG-HI aims to ensure that the Little Fire Ant (LFA), *Wasmannia punctata*, an invasive species that was recently introduced to the State of Hawaii, does not become established on U.S. Army installations. LFA has the potential to infest homes and cause painful stings on both adults and children. The LFA also stings pets, such as dogs or cats on their eyes, which has the potential to cause blindness.

c. Pursuant to a Biological Opinion with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USAG-HI must monitor invasive species and develop methods to eradicate invasive species. To achieve this end, all new USAG-HI landscaping projects must be sourced from LFA free nurseries. For confidentiality reasons, the Hawaii Department of Health has not published a formal list of nurseries that are not fire ant free. However, the agency has disclosed that these nurseries are located in the Waimanalo area on the Windward coast of Oahu. Therefore, it is *strongly* recommended that the covered persons not purchase or install any landscaping products purchased from the Waimanalo area until further notice.

d. Any individual who proposes or initiates a new landscaping project is required to contact the Directorate of Public Works Natural Resource Program (NRP), at 655-9189 or 655-9191, to obtain an approval certificate for the project prior to purchasing the landscaping materials.

e. Once the landscaping materials are installed, the project proponent must provide NRP personnel access to survey and inspect the newly landscaped sites. The purpose of the inspection is to look for LFA. If LFA are found, the project proponent or contractor who installed the plants must provide the labor and funding to remove the LFA. Under these circumstances, the responsible party may only use pest management controls that comply with the current USAG-HI Pest Management Plan and obtain approval from the Installation Pest Management Coordinator (IPMC) prior to any treatment. A copy of the Pest Management Plan may be obtained at Building 104 on Wheeler Army Airfield from the Pest Management Program Manager, 656-3093. The IPMC can provide guidance on how to comply with the Pest Management Plan.

f. The enclosures to this policy memorandum contain additional information about LFA and how to test plants for their presence.

g. This policy memorandum supersedes Policy Memorandum USAG-HI-71, SAB, 24 Jul 15, is effective immediately and remains in effect until cancelled or superseded in writing.

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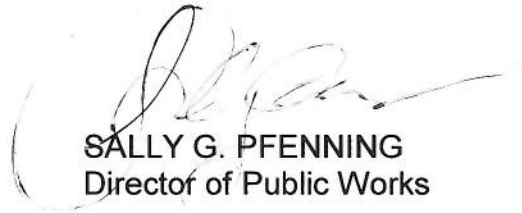
SUBJECT: Avoidance of Little Fire Ant Introduction

4. The proponent for administration of the Avoidance of Little Fire Ant Introduction policy is the DPW Environmental Division, at 655-9189 or 655-9191.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

2 Encls

1. Little Fire Ant Brochure
2. Little Fire Ant Testing Brochure

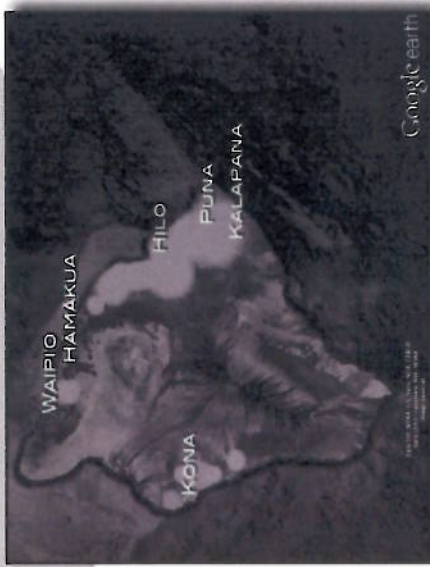


SALLY G. PFENNING
Director of Public Works

What is the Little Fire Ant?

Little FireAnts (LFA) are a new, invasive stinging ant that will spread across the Hawaiian islands if we don't take action now.

LFA infest yards, houses, farms and forests. Their powerful stings harm people and wildlife. LFA sting the eyes of pets, leading to blindness. LFA damage crops, food production, and the economy everywhere they have spread. LFA alter (or impact) people's lives because their stings are unavoidable.



Hawaii Island LFA infested areas (2014)

LFA was discovered in the Puna area of Hawaii Island in 1999 and has since spread, hidden in plants, logs, greenwaste, gravel, and even cars. Interisland spread has been somewhat limited by plant treatment and inspection, but LFA continue to spread.

In December 2013, LFA were discovered in hapuu logs at nurseries and garden shops on Oahu and Maui, and in landscaping on Lanai. Many of the hapuu sold to the public remain unaccounted for. There are many other pathways that LFA may be transported and introduced to other islands.

A multi-agency response has been launched to survey and treat potential LFA locations not found on Hawaii Island. Everyone needs to test their homes and yards and report possible LFA. We need your kokua.

Detect - Report - Stop the Little Fire Ant

DETECT

HDOA locations for dropping off or mailing samples:

Kauai: 4398A Pua Loke Street
Lihue, HI 96766

Oahu: 1428 S. King St
Honolulu, HI 96814

Maui: 635 Mua Street
Kahului, HI 96732

Molokai: (call 643-PEST for instructions)

Hawaii Island: Hawaii Ant Lab / HDOA
16 E. Lanikaula St
Hilo, HI 96720

REPORT

Immediately report suspected LFA to any of the following places:

Hawaii Department of Agriculture Statewide Hotline: 643-PEST (7378)

Kauai Invasive Species Committee: 821-1490

Oahu Invasive Species Committee: 266-7994

Maui Invasive Species Committee: 573-6472

Molokai Invasive Species Committee: 553-5236

Big Island Invasive Species Committee: 933-3340

Hawaii Ant Lab: 315-5656 (Hawaii Island)

LEARN MORE

For more information about LFA, visit: www.littlefireants.com or www.LFAHawaii.org

Partners and Contributors: Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Department of Land and Natural Resources, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Hawaii Ant Lab, Hawaii Invasive Species Council, Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species, the Invasive Species Committees of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawaii, The Nature Conservancy, Oahu Army Natural Resources Program, Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit, City and County of Honolulu.

Little Fire Ant

Wasmannia auropunctata



Detect - Report - Stop Little Fire Ant!

Protect Your Family

DETECT

Supplies: peanut butter, disposable chopsticks, zip top bags, and a pen.



1. Place sticks with a *thin* smear of peanut butter* every few feet in and around plants in your yard, garden, and lanai. Focus on shady, moist areas, the bottoms of pots, and where plants' leaves meet the stem.

**Regular peanut butter, not natural or fat free.*

***For those with a peanut allergy, use pieces of luncheon meat.*



2. Leave the sticks in place for **1 hour** during the cool part of the day.



3. Check sticks without moving them. Collect the stick if:

- The ants are uniformly orange/red and VERY small.
- You are unsure about the ants.

4. Very carefully place it directly into the bag (so ants don't fall off).

5. Seal the bag, label it with your name, address and phone number, and put it in your freezer overnight to kill the ants.

*View *How to Survey for LFA* video at <http://vimeo.com/97558997>

REPORT

Call the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) statewide **pest hotline at 643-PEST** to report that you might have LFA. Drop off (or mail) the sample (zip top bag with frozen ants) at any HDOA office (see back for locations).

HDOA will contact you when the ants are identified. **Do not disturb the ants and do not control or treat the area.** This will make the nests difficult to find and possibly spread them further.

STOP LFA

If HDOA confirms you don't have LFA, congratulations and thank you! Remain vigilant. **Always quarantine and test any new plants,** cut flowers, plant materials, mulch, soil and other items.

If you do have LFA, call HDOA about what to do next. We can help you control it, but we need your help to map and control every location of LFA to help prevent it from spreading.



How to identify LFA:

- Tiny ants: $\frac{1}{16}$ inch, as long as a penny is thick
- Orange-red in color
- Slow-moving



Look-alike: Tropical fire ant

- Common larger stinging ant
- Widespread
- Builds ground nests in sunny, dry areas
- Nests have distinct openings



An entire LFA colony can fit in macadamia nut shell

- LFA don't form mounds
- Nests don't have distinct openings
- Nests in moist, shady areas, in trees, under tree bark, under rocks, within logs & in leaf litter



Little Fire Ants are on the move, and could be in your plants or yard. Find out today using this simple test.



1. Smear a very thin coat of peanut butter on disposable chopsticks. Place them every few feet in and around plants in shady, moist areas, and up in banana leaf axles. Be sure peanut butter is in contact with surface of test site. (You can substitute spam or lunch meat for peanut butter.)
2. Leave the peanut butter chopsticks out for an hour during the day.
3. Check all chopsticks. If the ants you see are any one or more of the of the following, they are NOT LFA;
 - black
 - large head with a small body
 - fast-moving
 - more than one color
4. If you are unsure about the ants, or if you find orange or red ants that are VERY small, about as long as a penny is thick, you may have LFA, but a positive identification will require help.
5. Place the chopstick with ants into a zip-top bag, label it with your contact information, and place it in the freezer overnight to kill the ants.
6. The next day, deliver or mail your sample to the nearest Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) office. You can also call the HDOA pest hotline at 643-PEST (643-7378), or the Oahu Invasive Species Committee at 266-7994 to make a report and get help. DO NOT move or spray infested materials, and do not move live ants! You are seeing the workers, and we need them alive to help us get to the queens.
7. Always quarantine and test your new plants and plant materials and other items from infested areas, because LFA will continue to be a threat to ALL our islands.

On Oahu, mail or drop off your samples at:
 HDOA Plant Pest Control OR HDOA Plant Quarantine Branch
 1428 S. King Street 1849 Auiki Street
 Honolulu, HI 96814 Honolulu, HI 96819



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SPREAD THE WORD, NOT THE PEST!!

For more information visit: www.LFAHawaii.org
or www.littlefireants.com

EARLY DETECTION IS OAHU'S GREATEST CHANCE OF CONTROLLING LITTLE FIRE ANT.

- Little Fire Ants (LFA) are new to Oahu.
- Arrived in December 2013 on hapuu logs from Hawaii Island.
- Unknown how many hapuu logs were sold before LFA were detected.
- LFA are one color...orange.
- LFA are tiny, about 1/16th of an inch...that's the thickness of a penny.
- LFA are very slow-moving and don't cling to surfaces very well.
- LFA live not only on the ground, but also in the trees.
- LFA fall from trees, stinging whomever happens to be underneath.
- LFA deliver painful stings that can look like a rash and last for days.
- LFA can sting animals in their eyes, causing pain and blindness.
- LFA farm agriculture pests such as mealy bugs and scale, causing decreased crop production.
- Large LFA infestations are difficult and expensive to control.



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