



National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program

Guidelines for residents living in fire ant restricted areas

Fire ants have potential to cause extensive agricultural, environmental and economic damage and affect our outdoor way of life. One of the ways to control and eradicate these destructive and dangerous pests is through movement controls to ensure we do not accidentally move them around.

Restricted areas have been established in suburbs where fire ants are most likely to spread.

Do you live in a fire ant high-risk restricted area?

To find out if your suburb is in the high-risk restricted area, check the suburbs list on our website.

If you live in the high-risk area and will be moving restricted items, there are a few things you need to do. Restricted items include pot plants, soil, baled hay, straw and animal manure — where fire ants like to live.

If you plan on moving these items off your property, you must choose one of the following options:

- Move your restricted items to your local waste facility**
 All waste facilities within the fire ant restricted areas are treated for fire ants, so it's safe to move items to these sites. A list of waste facilities is also available on our website.
- Preventatively treat your items**
 Most items can be treated. See 'Restricted items' for information about the most appropriate treatment option for each item.
- Get an inspector's approval**
 Call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 and speak to an inspector.

Restricted items

Pot plants

Pot plants can be a ready-made nest for a fire ant colony. If you keep pot plants inside, off the ground, or on a solid surface such as concrete, where ants can't penetrate the pot, you can move them with no restrictions. However, it's important that you visually check your pot plants and the surrounds for fire ants before moving them off your property.

If you think you have found fire ants, report it to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

If your pot plants are outdoors and have contact with the ground you will need to bare root your potted plants and replace the soil with new bagged potting mix before moving them off your property. Preventatively treating the area surrounding your outdoor pot plants with a fire ant registered product such as hydramethylnon or pyriproxyfen, 7–10 days before moving them, is also an option. Alternatively, you can chemically treat your pot plants with chemicals approved for use by searching <https://portal.apvma.gov.au/permits>.

Soil and mulch

You have two options for moving soil or mulch off your property. Soil can either be moved straight to a waste facility or you will need to get an inspector's approval by contacting 13 25 23.

Manure

Fire ants have been found nesting in and below animal manure, so it's important that if you're planning to move manure off your property, you collect the fresh manure within 48 hours — before fire ants have the chance to become established. After collection, store the manure appropriately to prevent it becoming infested with fire ants. Suitable storage includes a hard surface like concrete where fire ants can't penetrate, or in a sealed bag.

Hay

If you need to move hay off your residential property, to be effective, you must store the hay appropriately to prevent it becoming infested with fire ants. This involves storing your hay off the ground, or treating the area that surrounds your storage area with a fire ant registered product such as hydramethylnon or pyriproxyfen, 7–10 days before it is moved. It's also important to visually check your hay before you move it off your property.

Further information

For more information, or if you would like specific advice on moving restricted items, please contact us on **13 25 23**.