



## Federal Imported Fire Ant Quarantine Information for Nursery/Sod Growers Questions and Answers May 2013

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Imported Fire Ants (IFA) are notorious hitchhikers and are readily transported long distances when articles such as soil, nursery stock, and other items are shipped outside the infested area. Provisions of the Federal Imported Fire Ant Quarantine (7 Code of Federal Regulations, part 301.81) were invoked May 6, 1958, in an effort to slow or prevent the artificial spread of imported fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta* Buren, *S. richteri* Forel, or their hybrids).

**Q. Where Can I Find Information on the Federal Imported Fire Ant Quarantine?**

A: USDA, APHIS, PPQ oversees the federal IFA quarantine with state regulatory officials implementing the quarantine at the state level. In general, the state regulatory officials/inspectors will be your first line of communication regarding the Federal IFA Quarantine.

- State regulatory officials: <http://www.nationalplantboard.org/member/index.html>
- APHIS State plant health directors: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/services/report\\_pest\\_disease/report\\_pest\\_disease.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/services/report_pest_disease/report_pest_disease.shtml)

USDA, APHIS, PPQ Imported Fire Ant website:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/fireants/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/fireants/index.shtml)

**Q. How Do I Know if I am in the Imported Fire Ant Quarantined Area?**

The most recent IFA quarantine map is located at:

[www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/fireants/downloads/fireant.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/fireants/downloads/fireant.pdf).

To determine whether you are in a quarantine area by your zip code, visit USDA's Web Site at:

[www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/fireants/zipcode.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/fireants/zipcode.shtml)

and click the "check your zip code now" link.



**Q: What Articles/Items are Regulated for Imported Fire Ant?**

**A. Regulated Articles:**

1. Imported fire ant queens and reproducing colonies of imported fire ants.
2. Soil, separately or with other things, except soil samples shipped to approved laboratories (consult with a State or Federal inspector for a list of approved laboratories). Potting soil is exempt if commercially prepared, packaged, and shipped in original container.
3. Plants with roots and soil attached, except house plants maintained indoors and not for sale.
4. Grass sod
5. Baled hay and straw that has been stored in contact with soil.
6. Used soil-moving equipment.
7. Any other products, articles, or means of conveyance of any character whatsoever not covered by the above, when it is determined by an inspector that they present a hazard of spread of the imported fire ant and the person in possession thereof has been so notified.

**Q. What is Paperwork is Necessary to Move an Article Regulated for Imported Fire Ant?**

**A.** A person who grows, handles or moves regulated items may operate under a Compliance Agreement agreeing to comply with specific treatment/handling provisions of the Federal IFA Quarantine. Compliance agreements should be re-nued annually. Those not under Compliance Agreements may be issued certificates by quarantine officials authorizing movement of regulated articles when certain approved procedures have been utilized to ensure that the regulated article(s) are free from imported fire ant infestation. These are generally issued per shipment. Contact your State Regulatory Official.

**Q. What Insecticides are Approved for use in Federal Imported Fire Ant Quarantine for Nursery Stock and Grass Sod?**

**A:** This list or trade names is NOT inclusive and a detailed list of insecticide labels is available on the Web:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/fireants/downloads/IFA\\_QuarantineLables.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/fireants/downloads/IFA_QuarantineLables.pdf)

Common Name	Trade Name examples	Formulations†	Use pattern
Bifenthrin	Talstar®, Onyx Pro®, etc. (many)	G, F, EC	Container, B&B, sod
Chlorpyrifos	Dursban®, Chlorpyrifos	E, G	Container, B&B, field grown, sod
Diazinon	Section 24(c) only, contact state		
Fenoxycarb	Award®	Bait	Field grown
Fipronil	Topchoice®, Fipronil	G	Container, sod
Hydramethylnon	Amdro®Pro	Bait	Field grown
Methoprene	Extinguish®	Bait	Field grown
Pyriproxyfen	Distance®	Bait	Field grown
Tefluthrin	No label currently available	G	Container

† WP and W = wettable powder, E/EC = emulsifiable concentrate, G = Granular



**Q. Where Can I Find the Approved Imported Fire Ant Treatments for Nursery Stock and Grass Sod?**

**A:** All treatments can be found in the PPQ Treatment Manual located at:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/plants/manuals/ports/downloads/treatment.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/ports/downloads/treatment.pdf).

This is a large pdf that contains all PPQ treatments for all programs, both export and domestic. Go to Domestic Treatments in the Bookmarks, then to Imported Fire Ant (D301-81-10).

Treatments include the following:

Nursery Stock – in Containers

- Immersion/Dip – bifenthrin and chlorpyrifos
- Drench – bifenthrin and chlorpyrifos
- Topical – bifenthrin
- Granular Incorporation – bifenthrin, fipronil and tefluthrin

Nursery Stock – Field Grown Nursery Stock (pre-harvest infield treatments or post-harvest balled-and-burlapped (B&B) treatments)

- Post-harvest B&B treatments
  - o Immersion/Dip – bifenthrin and chlorpyrifos
  - o Drench – chlorpyrifos
- Pre-harvest in field treatment – broadcast bait plus broadcast contact insecticide (chlorpyrifos)

Grass Sod

- Bifenthrin – liquid
- Chlorpyrifos – liquid
- Fipronil – granular

Fire Ant Free Nursery Program for Plants in Containers

The Fire Ant Free Nursery Program is designed to keep nurseries free of IFA and provides a basis to certify containerized nursery stock on a continuous basis. Components and requirements of the Fire Ant Free Nursery Program are as follows: 1. Detection; 2. Control; 3. Exclusion; 4. Enforcement. *This IFA Free Nursery Program is not mandatory for movement of nursery stock.* Certification may be granted on the basis of other treatments.

**Q: What about Approved Imported Fire Ant Treatments for Non-Nursery Items?**

**A:** Treatments for non-nursery items may also be found in the PPQ Treatment Manual and best management practices for some items may be found on the PPQ IFA website noted in the Information Question above.

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