

Description



There are many species of ant, the commonest of which is the Black Garden Ant. A smaller species – Pharaoh's Ant – occasionally nests in warm situations, usually kitchens, but the Garden Ant is most commonly found in houses, foraging for food. These ants nest in the soil, under paving stones or in the footings of walls where the nest entrance may be distinguished by small piles of fine earth which have been brought out.

Though most varieties of ants are able to sting they seldom do so. Apart from their general nuisance value in houses, they call attention to themselves in particular by their swarming mating flight on a hot sunny afternoon in July or August when they may be seen in vast numbers simultaneously about the district.

Control Measures

If it is possible to find the nest, pouring boiling water into the entrance hole could destroy it. Using insecticidal powder into the entrance can sometimes control small infestations. Insecticidal powder applied in a strip along the outside walls, can also provide a barrier. One of the most effective and the least unsightly methods of control is by applying small quantities of specific poison bait, obtainable from any chemists, in selected areas where the ants may carry this back to the nest.

The colonies finally die out but others may appear in time and the exercise may have to be repeated. Large infestations may require a combination of these methods. If insecticides are used you should follow the instructions carefully.

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