

**NEWS RELEASE FROM THE OFFICE OF:**

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GREGG COUNTY**

**Tackle fire ants in the fall  
for fewer ants in the spring.**

Every year you resolve to win the war against fire ants. And every year, you experience the agony of defeat. But it's your home turf, so this year take control of the game.

The warm fall days of October are ideal times to apply fire ant bait to your lawn -- ants are still foraging and weather patterns are more predictable so you can apply bait when no rain is expected for several days after treatment. Baits are slow-acting, taking weeks to months to reduce ant mound numbers. It's a lot easier to be patient with baits while holed up inside during the winter than in the spring, when you're anxious to get outdoors -- without getting stung.

Since fire ants travel from yard to yard, team up with your neighbors to implement fire ant control programs at the same time..

The program advocated for lawns in heavily infested areas in East Texas is called "the Two-Step-Method." This program uses the annual or semi-annual broadcast application of one of the effective fire ant bait products like Amdro, Ascend, Award, Extinguish, Justice or Logic, just to name a few of the many products available to homeowners. The second step is the use of an individual fire ant mound treatment product like a dust, drench, bait or granular insecticide to treat "nuisance" or "escape" mounds. The second step should be applied three to seven days after the broadcast bait application.

Be careful and only use insecticides when and where they are needed . Today's baits are gentle on the environment and are best applied using crank-type seeders or spreaders. The Two-Step Method (using baits and treating recurring mounds individually) is best for most heavily infested turfgrass areas. In areas with low fire ant populations or an interest in preserving native ant species, treat mounds individually.

Whatever fire ant control efforts are used, take care to follow use instructions provided on the product label. None of the methods of fire ant control available today eliminate ants forever. Plan to re-apply treatments as needed for as long as control is desired.

By starting your fire ant control program in the fall and following a regular maintenance schedule thereafter, you'll see fewer ants -- and will spend less time on injured reserve because of ant stings.

For additional information on Fire Ants, see the Gregg County Extension web page at [Gregg-co.tamu.edu](http://Gregg-co.tamu.edu).

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