FIRE ANT READY PROGRAM

FIRE ANT CHEAT SHEET

– SPECIFIC FOR NURSERY

We all must take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise the spread of red imported fire ants (RIFA) so we have collated some great information specific for nursery. Feel free to pull out and display where you and the team can reference.

IDENTIFICATION OF FIRE ANTS

One of the world's most invasive pests that cause irreversible consequences on the environment, economy, human health and social amenity.

1. Measuring 2-6 mm in size
2. Nests have no entry or exit holes
3. Aggressive in behaviour, will swam and attack when disturbed
4. Copper brown in colour with a darker abdomen

STORING OF POTTED PLANTS

Option 1.

1. Off-ground (approx. 30cm)
2. Covering – over the top
3. No dirt bridging

Option 2.

1. On-ground – on a fire ant-resistant surface (e.g. concrete with no cracks or micron fibre surface (200-micron sheeting)
2. 30 cm-wide perimeter treatment around potted plants (bifenthrin)
3. Covering – over the top

TREATMENT OF POTTED PLANTS (PREVENTATIVE TREATMENT METHODS)

Option 1. Granular insecticides in potting media (Bifenthrin 24-month protection or Chlorpyrifos 12 months protection)

Option 2. Drenching or dipping pot plants (Bifenthrin – 28 days, Cyfluthrin – 72 hours, Betacyfluthrin – 72 hours)

Option 3. Spraying pot plants (Bifenthrin – 28 days, Cyfluthrin – 72 hours, Betacyfluthrin – 72 hours)

**Dosage rate determined the protection period – review product label. Record of when pot plants have been treated is required.*

IMPORTANT LINKS

Biosecurity zones

Managing Potted Plants

NSW emergency order details

Rules for moving products

TRANSPORTATION OF PLANTS (BIOSECURITY ZONES)

Queensland

a. Potted plants can be moved to a waste facility within the same biosecurity zone.
b. If the original place is in biosecurity zone 1, it can be moved to a waste facility in biosecurity zone 2, as long as the potted plants are transported directly.
c. If the potted plants have been at the original place for less than 24 hours, it can be moved.
d. The person can move the potted plants under a biosecurity authorization, which likely requires approval or a permit.
e. The person can move potted plants if they take steps to ensure the carrier complies with specific regulations outlined above (stored and treated as per above) and they keep a written record of those steps. The record could include:
    - A digital photograph showing how the carrier was kept.
    - A record of any treatments or actions taken to prevent fire ant spread.

Biosecurity Instrument Permit:

- **A biosecurity instrument permit may be issued, under certain provisions, to allow non-compliance with the regulations mentioned above.**

MOVING FROM QUEENSLAND INTO NEW SOUTH WALES

Requirements

Indoor Plants

The regulation states that indoor potted plants can only be moved if:

1. Have been indoors for 3 months and are either moved directly indoors to the vehicle without touching the ground or uprooted with no soil attached.
2. They are checked for fire ants before movement.
3. They must remain indoors for 3 months at the destination.

Potted Plants

The regulation states that indoor potted plants can only be moved if:

1. To move a potted plant under controlled conditions, the growing media must be treated with an APVMA-approved chemical for fire ants, following all label and permit instructions.
2. The treatment must remain effective until the plant reaches its destination.
3. The plant must also be accompanied by a biosecurity certificate or Plant Health Certificate confirming these conditions are met. However, these rules do not apply to indoor potted plants (as per above)
4. Make a Record of Movement (RoM) declaration

Biosecurity Certificate:

- **You can obtain a certificate via a Plant Health Inspector or Interstate Certification Assurance ICA).**

IMPORTANT NOTE: This document has not been approved or authorised by NFAEP and is to be used as a guide only.