



# Fighting RIFA in your Community!



## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT RED IMPORTED FIRE ANTS AND TREATMENT

- ✓ **Ensure effective treatment:**
  - Refrain from mowing or irrigating lawns starting the day before until the day after the treatment. The ground must be dry for an effective treatment; therefore RIFA control applications will be rescheduled in the case of rain the day before or the day of treatment.
  - Keep pets away from baited area for 24 hours following treatment so they do not consume the bait. The risk to the pet is minimal; however the effectiveness of the treatment will be reduced.
- ✓ **You may still see RIFA and their mounds after treatment:** The treatment will greatly reduce the number of RIFA. However, neither product guarantees 100% control and will not prevent infestation by new colonies.
- ✓ **Know the difference between ants:** The District **does not treat for all ants**, only RIFA, which are reddish to dark brown in color,  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in size, and more aggressive than most ant species. Their mounds are dome shaped and look like piles of sand. A District technician will make an inspection and determine which ant species is present.
- ✓ **What to do if stung:** Wash area with soap and water; elevate bitten area and apply ice; keep blisters clean; avoid scratching; and seek medical help if swelling worsens or allergic symptoms develop.
- ✓ **Treatment details:** Properties are treated with one of the following products:
  - Advion® or Extinguish Plus®**
    - Mode of action: When ingested by RIFA, the product blocks nerve cells resulting in death. With Extinguish Plus® the compound also prevents the ants from reproducing.
    - When should I see results: The compound is quick acting and controls at least 75% of RIFA within 14 days and will continue ant reduction in the following weeks. However, you may still see RIFA and their mounds up to a month following treatment.
    - When is the property eligible for retreatment: According to the product label and EPA restrictions we can **retreat after 16 weeks** if you suspect RIFA at that time. Contact the District for an inspection.
- ✓ **How homeowners can schedule treatment of private property:** Please inform homeowners responsible for their own irrigation and landscaping, independent of the association, if they are seeing possible RIFA on their property, they can contact the District directly to request an appointment at another time for a personal property treatment at [www.cvmvcd.org/contact.htm](http://www.cvmvcd.org/contact.htm) or 760-342-8287.
- ✓ **For further information about RIFA or the treatment administered:** Please visit our website [www.cvmvcd.org/programs.htm](http://www.cvmvcd.org/programs.htm) or call the District at (760) 342-8287.

Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

43-420 Trader Place • Indio, CA 92201 • (760) 342-8287 or (888) 343-9399 • Fax (760) 342-8110

E-mail: [CVmosquito@cvmvcd.org](mailto:CVmosquito@cvmvcd.org) • Website: [www.cvmvcd.org](http://www.cvmvcd.org)