



We're all on the same team when tackling fire ants.

One of a homeowner's greatest wishes is to knock out fire ant mounds for good. But this is impossible if adjacent lawns or open areas aren't treated at the same time. Many communities and neighborhoods across Texas are beginning to successfully manage fire ants through coordinated treatment programs. Here's how they're doing it:

- **Coordinating neighborhood treatment.** Homeowners can coordinate treatment of their entire neighborhood each year, usually once in the fall and once in the spring. This can be done by giving individuals instructions on how and when to treat their yards or with volunteers who help treat the entire neighborhood.
- **Working through homeowner associations.** These groups can contract with a local commercial applicator to periodically broadcast fire ant bait over the entire subdivision, including parks, empty lots, medians and other community property in the area.

To ensure your neighborhood program's success:

- **Determine treatment areas.** Some areas, even within heavily infested regions, have few or no fire ants and do not need to be treated or require only spot treatments.
- **Respect individual differences.** Participation in a community-wide fire ant management program should be voluntary or decided upon through a democratic process. Select treatment methods that best meet the needs for control in the neighborhood.
- **Promote education and recognize limitations.** The strengths and limitations of the program should be acknowledged (e.g. ants won't be eradicated; baits are slow-acting; periodic, coordinated reapplication will be necessary to maintain control).
- **Follow pesticide laws and regulations.** Although you can apply insecticides on your own property, you cannot treat other yards for a fee in the neighborhood without a commercial pesticide applicator's license.
- **Read and retain the insecticide product label.**
- **Take bids and review credentials** before contracting with a commercial pest control operator.