

Fire Ant Initiative Action Plan – FY 2006-2007

Summary

As an integral part of the project on Fire Ant Management in Texas, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) plays a central role in preventing the artificial spread of the red imported fire ant (IFA), *Solenopsis invicta* into non-infested areas through regulatory and quarantine actions. Annual surveys of the counties along the leading edge of fire ant distribution are important to understand population spread and overall economic impact of IFA on the state's plant industry and are proposed. These surveys serve as a basis for quarantine decisions, and phytosanitary certification of plant material exported outside the quarantined areas. Delimiting survey will be intensified in the City of Lubbock to map areas of IFA concentration to develop strategies to reduce infestation or quarantine the infested area. Emphasis is also given to public education through information dissemination to nurserymen, greenhouse, turf and hay growers and shippers of agricultural commodities to IFA-free areas. Regulatory updates, quarantine actions and publication of the quarantine map will be made available at TDA's website.