

Red Imported Fire Ant Research and Management Plan Weather Reporting Program

The mound-building and foraging characteristics of the red imported fire ant usually depend heavily upon environmental conditions (rainfall, temperature, soil type). During warm times of the year when soil is moist, mound-building and foraging activity will increase considerably. During extreme weather conditions (very cold, very hot or dry periods), fire ants typically exhibit very little mound-building and foraging activity. Favorable environmental conditions will also encourage the development of fire ants and increase the presence of winged reproductives in the mounds.

This program selects one permanent, untreated site in each major urban area of the state, i.e. Dallas/Fort Worth, Bryan/College Station, Austin, Houston, and San Antonio. [Site location and characteristics](#) are described and a weather station is identified that provides the temperature and rainfall records for that area. Once a month, Texas Cooperative Extension agents in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) will monitor fire ant mounds, estimate ant numbers and note brood type. Results will be reported from each site monthly (see left).

The information generated through these efforts can be both interesting and useful. The Red Imported Fire Ant and Weather Reporting Program will allow interested individuals to better understand the current and historical activity state of fire ant colonies, the probable occurrence of mating flights, and the relative ant mound numbers through the years. Comparisons of ant development and mound forming activities can be made between locations and over time. Fire ants in nearby sites may have different developmental and health conditions than those in the permanent monitoring plots, therefore; the use of this information is encouraged to verify observations reported with the activity of ant populations in their management area.

2002 Monthly Reports

Jan* [Feb](#) [Mar](#) [Apr](#) [May](#) [Jun](#) [Jul](#) [Aug](#) [Sep](#) [Oct](#) [Nov](#) Dec*

*Not available

2002 Graphs by Region

AUS* [BCS](#) [DFW*](#) HOU* SAT*

*Not available or incomplete.

2001 Monthly Reports

[Jan](#) [Feb](#) [Mar](#) [Apr](#) [May](#) [Jun](#) [Jul](#) [Aug](#) [Sep](#) [Oct](#) [Nov](#) [Dec](#)

2001 Graphs by Region

[AUS](#) [BCS1](#) [BCS2](#) [DFW](#) [HOU](#) [SAT](#)

2000 Monthly Reports

[Jan](#) [Feb](#) [Mar](#) [Apr](#) [May](#) [Jun](#) [Jul](#) [Aug](#) [Sep](#) [Oct](#) [Nov](#) [Dec](#)

2000 Graphs by Region

[AUS](#) [BCS](#) [DFW*](#) [HOU](#) [SAT](#)