

ACES Factsheet: **SUCCESSFULLY TREATING ANTS**



Ants can present a challenge to successfully control. Ants can be a source of call backs for pest control companies, as they come back. The reason that they are difficult to control and how to treat them successfully can be found their biology.

Ants belong order Hymenoptera the same order as bumble bees, bees and wasps. They are social insects and have a structured order in their nest. There are three types of ant, the two reproductives and the worker ants which are all sterile females.

Except for a few times a year the nest is an all-female show, made up of the queen and her workers. Workers can be specialized and different sizes such as larger guard ants and pseudo queens. However all the workers are female and do not reproduce.

The workers are the ants that customers see when their home is invaded by ants. The queen is always remote and not accessible.

Only one ant passes her genes on to the next generation and that's the queen.

Darwin's theory of evolution suggests the reason an animal exists is to pass its genetic material on to the next generation. The fact that worker the ants tireless work and lay down their lives' for the queen has perplexed evolutionist for many years.

What's in it for them? They now believe that the reason that the worker ants work and die without personal reward is because the Queen's genome is so genetically similar to theirs that she is doing the reproducing for them. Defending her is defending their genes.

Understanding the ants system is the key to working out why ants can be difficult to control and the secret to successfully treat them.

The workers you see in and around your house are of no importance at all. The show is run by the queen(s).

Targeting the queen(s) and you will control all the ants.