



Both male and female adult reproductives are winged and mate in the air.





Red imported fire ant adult worker.

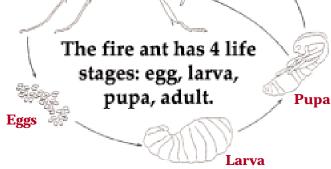
PUPAE



These pupae will develop into different size workers and winged forms. Pupae take 9 to 16 days to develop.

**Adult Worker** Winged Adult

Eggs are found in the brood chamber of a mound. They usually take 7 to 10 days to hatch.









Compiled by Real R. Nester Adopted from: 5.5. Weson, 1997, Invasion of the red Imported fine ont, Amer. Extend. AS, 23-42.

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Larvae molt four times over a 12- to 15-day period. The first three instars are fed regurgitated liquid food.



These larval instars will develop into different size workers.



The fourth instar is the only stage of fire ant that can digest solid food. The food is placed in a food basket just beneath the mouth and is digested externally.