

BROWN BORDER/BACKGROUND

1. Deer with fire ant stings



Many wild animals are stung by the red imported fire ant. Here, a young deer must have disturbed a fire ant mound while feeding. It has many stings on its nose. Fire ants have been known to kill young animals if the animals fall onto a mound.

2. Fire ant baits



A fire ant bait is an insecticide that ants sense to be food. The fire ant workers find the bait particles and carry them back to the colony, where larvae, workers and queens eat and circulate it. Conventional formulated baits have three main components: de-fatted corn cob grit granules, soybean oil and an active ingredient (the insecticide).

3. Fire ant worker ants



Worker fire ants are wingless, sterile females. They protect the queen by defending the nest from intruders. They feed the queen only food that other worker fire ants or larvae have eaten first. They move the queen if she is in danger.

4. Pyramid ant mound



This is the mound of a pyramid ant. Unlike the fire ant mound, the pyramid ant mound has a single entry/exit hole. Fire ant mounds have no visible entry/exit hole. The pyramid ant is a native ant of Texas and is an enemy of the fire ant. Many times you can see fire ant body parts surrounding the pyramid ant mound.

5. Velvet ant



The so-called “velvet ant” is not an ant at all. Even though it is in the same order as the ant, Hymenoptera, the velvet ant is really a ground dwelling, wingless wasp. You must be careful around them — if you step on one, it will sting you. These insects are also called “cow killer ant.”

