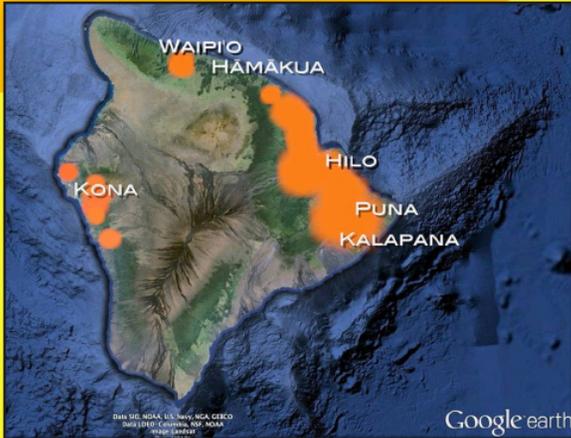


What is the Little Fire Ant?

Little Fire Ants (LFA) are a new, invasive stinging ant that will spread across the Hawaiian islands if we don't take action now.

LFA infest yards, houses, farms and forests. Their powerful stings harm people and wildlife. LFA sting the eyes of pets, leading to blindness. LFA damage crops, food production, and the economy everywhere they have spread. LFA alter (or impact) people's lives because their stings are unavoidable.



Hawaii Island LFA infested areas (2014)

LFA was discovered in the Puna area of Hawaii Island in 1999 and has since spread, hidden in plants, logs, greenwaste, gravel, and even cars. Interisland spread has been somewhat limited by plant treatment and inspection, but LFA continue to spread.

In December 2013, LFA were discovered in hapuu logs at nurseries and garden shops on Oahu and Maui, and in landscaping on Lanai. Many of the hapuu sold to the public remain unaccounted for. There are many other pathways that LFA may be transported and introduced to other islands.

A multi-agency response has been launched to survey and treat potential LFA locations not found on Hawaii Island. Everyone needs to test their homes and yards and report possible LFA. We need your kokua.

Detect - Report - Stop the Little Fire Ant

DETECT

HDOA locations for dropping off or mailing samples:

Kauai: 4398A Pua Loke Street
Lihue, HI 96766

Oahu: 1428 S. King St
Honolulu, HI 96814

Maui: 635 Mua Street
Kahului, HI 96732

Molokai: (call 643-PEST for instructions)

Hawaii Island: Hawaii Ant Lab / HDOA
16 E. Lanikaula St
Hilo, HI 96720

REPORT

Immediately report suspected LFA to any of the following places:

**Hawaii Department of Agriculture
Statewide Hotline: 643-PEST (7378)**

Kauai Invasive Species Committee: 821-1490

Oahu Invasive Species Committee: 266-7994

Maui Invasive Species Committee: 573-6472

Molokai Invasive Species Committee: 553-5236

Big Island Invasive Species Committee: 933-3340

Hawaii Ant Lab: 315-5656 (Hawaii Island)

LEARN MORE

For more information about LFA, visit:

www.littlefireants.com or www.LFAHawaii.org

Partners and Contributors: Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Department of Land and Natural Resources, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Hawaii Ant Lab, Hawaii Invasive Species Council, Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species, the Invasive Species Committees of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawaii, The Nature Conservancy, Oahu Army Natural Resources Program, Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit, City and County of Honolulu,

Little Fire Ant

Wasmannia auropunctata



**Detect - Report - Stop
Little Fire Ant!**

Protect Your Family

DETECT

Supplies: peanut butter, disposable chopsticks, zip top bags, and a pen.



1. Place sticks with a **thin** smear of peanut butter* every few feet in and around plants in your yard, garden, and lanai. Focus on shady, moist areas, the bottoms of pots, and where plants' leaves meet the stem.

**Regular peanut butter, not natural or fat free.*

***For those with a peanut allergy, use pieces of luncheon meat.*

2. Leave the sticks in place for **1 hour** during the cool part of the day.

3. **Check sticks** without moving them. Collect the stick if:

- The ants are uniformly orange/red and VERY small.
- You are unsure about the ants.

4. Very carefully place it directly into the bag (so ants don't fall off).

5. Seal the bag, label it with your name, address and phone number, and **put it in your freezer overnight** to kill the ants.

*View **How to Survey for LFA** video at <http://vimeo.com/97558997>



Alex Wild

How to identify LFA:

- Tiny ants: $\frac{1}{16}$ inch, as long as a penny is thick
- Orange-red in color
- Slow-moving



Tropical fire ant

LFA

USDA

Look-alike: Tropical fire ant

- Common larger stinging ant
- Widespread
- Builds ground nests in sunny, dry areas
- Nests have distinct openings

REPORT

Call the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) statewide **pest hotline at 643-PEST** to report that you might have LFA. Drop off (or mail) the sample (zip top bag with frozen ants) at any HDOA office (see back for locations).

HDOA will contact you when the ants are identified. **Do not disturb the ants** and **do not control or treat the area**. This will make the nests difficult to find and possibly spread them further.

STOP LFA

If HDOA confirms you don't have LFA, congratulations and thank you! Remain vigilant. **Always quarantine and test any new plants**, cut flowers, plant materials, mulch, soil and other items.

If you do have LFA, call HDOA about what to do next. We can help you control it, but we need your help to map and control every location of LFA to help prevent it from spreading.



An entire LFA colony can fit in macadamia nut shell

- LFA don't form mounds
- Nests don't have distinct openings
- Nests in moist, shady areas, in trees, under tree bark, under rocks, within logs & in leaf litter