

# Little Fire Ant (LFA) Homeowner Treatment Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. Who may request LFA treatments?

Treatment may be requested by any O'ahu homeowner whose property has been confirmed to have LFA by the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). Businesses will not be eligible for treatment in this project.

## 2. How may I request LFA treatment?

Homeowners requesting LFA treatments may contact HDOA by phone at **808-832-0566** or email **HDOA.PQLFA@hawaii.gov**. Please type **"Request for LFA Treatment"** in the subject line. Please leave your contact information including name, address, and phone number so we may respond to you as quickly as possible.

## 3. How will treatments be prioritized?

Treatments will be prioritized primarily on a first-come, first-served basis under the following circumstances:

- HDOA must first determine the extent of the LFA infestation within the surrounding neighborhood.
- If multiple homes are within an infested area, all affected homeowners must allow their properties to be treated. HDOA will not allow the treatment of only a few homes in an infested neighborhood because reinfestation of treated homes will likely occur. The success of the treatment program relies on the cooperation and consent of the neighborhood.

## 4. What are the steps necessary to be eligible for free treatments in this program?

1. Notify HDOA if you suspect you have LFA.
2. HDOA will mail you an LFA detection kit.
3. Follow the instructions in the kit to survey your property for LFA and mail the samples to HDOA at:

Hawai'i Department of Agriculture  
Plant Quarantine Branch  
Attn: Entomologist  
1849 Auiki Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96819

4. If LFA is confirmed, HDOA will contact you to determine the extent of the infestation in the area.
5. Once the extent of the LFA infestation is determined and all affected homeowners have given consent for treatment, the area will be referred to a pest control company for treatment.

## 5. What will treatments entail?

Treatment protocol will consist of eight applications of granular bait insecticides at approximately six-week intervals. Gel baits may also be applied if deemed appropriate by the pest control applicator or HDOA. Total treatment time will take about one year.

HDOA will perform quality assurance surveys at select properties midway through the treatment program and will conduct monitoring surveys after conclusion of program to determine success.

## 6. Why must multiple treatments occur?

Multiple treatments are necessary in order to achieve the best chance at eliminating the entire colony of LFA. Single treatments are unlikely to kill all egg-producing queens in a colony so multiple treatments are needed to have the best chance of success.

## 7. Can renters request treatment for LFA?

Yes. However, consent for treatment must be received by **both** the renter and property owner.

## 8. What products will be used in this program?

**Siesta** – A granular insecticidal bait.

**Maxforce Complete** – A granular insecticidal bait.

**Tango** – A gel bait containing an insect growth regulator.

**Advion** – An insecticidal gel bait.

The pest control applicator or HDOA will make the determination of which products to use.

## 9. Are the products used in this treatment program safe for children and pets?

The amount of insecticide in these products is very low and a large amount would need to be ingested to make a child or pet sick. However, children and pets should be kept indoors or away from treated areas during and just after bait applications. Chickens should not be allowed to forage in newly treated areas for at least 24 hours.

## 10. Is there any cost associated with these treatments?

No, LFA treatments will be free of charge under this program.

## 11. How many homes will be treated with state funding?

The treatment program will begin on O'ahu with funding for approximately 580 properties. There is also funding to treat properties on Maui, Kaua'i and selected public areas on Hawai'i Island, which will be announced soon.

## 12. Can the interior of a home be treated for LFA?

LFA treatments will only be applied outdoors. Treatments will not be applied inside homes or other dwellings.

## 13. If no LFA are found at my home can my home still be treated?

No, only homes that have a confirmed LFA infestation may be treated in this program.

## 14. Which companies will be providing treatments for this program?

Terminix, Sandwich Isle Pest Solutions and Kona Coast Pest Solutions.

## Program Contact:

Plant Quarantine Branch

**Phone:** 808-832-0566

**Email:** HDOA.PQLFA@hawaii.gov.