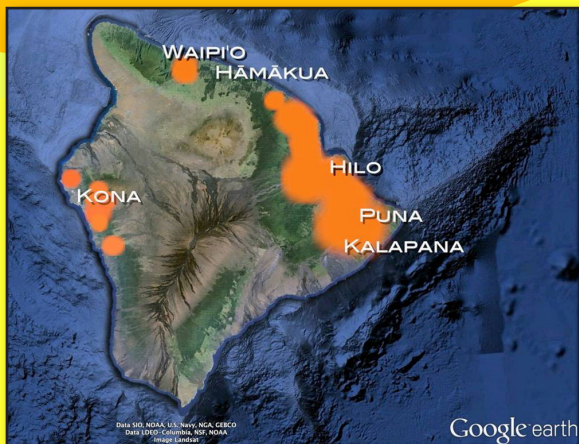


What Is the Little Fire Ant?

The little fire ant (LFA) is 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.



Island of Hawai'i, LFA-infested areas (2014)

LFA were discovered in the Puna area of Hawai'i island in 1999 and have 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 hāpu'u logs at nurseries and garden shops on O'ahu and Maui, and in landscaping on Lāna'i. Much of the infested hāpu'u sold to the public remains unaccounted for. LFA may be transported and introduced to other islands via many other pathways.

A multi-agency response has been launched to survey and treat potential LFA infestations on islands other than Hawai'i. Everyone needs to test their homes and yards and report possible LFA presence. We need your kōkua.

Detect — Report — Stop the Little Fire Ant

DETECT

**HDOA locations for dropping off
or mailing samples:**

Kaua'i: 4398A Pua Loke St, Lihu'e, HI 96766

O'ahu: 1428 S. King St, Honolulu, HI 96814

Maui: 635 Mua St, Kahului, HI 96732

Moloka'i: C/O The Nature Conservancy
23 Pueo Pl, Kaunakakai, HI 96748

Hawai'i: Hawai'i Ant Lab / HDOA
16 E. Lanikaula St, Hilo, HI 96720

REPORT

**Report a suspected LFA infestation
to any of the following places:**

**Hawai'i Department of Agriculture
Statewide Hotline: 643-PEST (7378)**

Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee: 821-1490

O'ahu Invasive Species Committee: 266-7994

Maui Invasive Species Committee: 573-6472

Moloka'i Invasive Species Committee: 553-5236

Big Island Invasive Species Committee: 933-3340

Hawai'i Ant Lab: 315-5656 (Hawai'i Island)

LEARN MORE

For more information about LFA, visit
www.littlefireants.com or **www.LFAHawaii.org**
or **hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/main/lfainfo/**

*Photo credits: Front side, front panel: top, USGS BRD Ellen VanGelder;
middle and bottom, Cas Vanderwoude. Inside, upper right, Alex Wild.*

*Partners and contributors: Hawai'i Department of Agriculture,
Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service, Hawai'i Ant Lab, Hawai'i Invasive Species Council,
Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species, Invasive Species
Committees of Hawai'i, University of Hawai'i College of Tropical
Agriculture and Human Resources, The Nature Conservancy, O'ahu
Army Natural Resources Program, Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit,
City and County of Honolulu*

Little Fire Ant

Wasmannia auropunctata



LFA on chopstick



Blind pets



Stings

Detect-Report-Stop the Little Fire Ant

Protect Your Family

DETECT

Supplies: peanut butter, disposable chopsticks, zip-top bags, marking pen.



1. Place sticks with a **thin** smear of peanut butter* every few feet in and around plants in your yard, garden, and lānai. Focus on shady, moist areas, the bottoms of pots, and where plants' leaves meet the stem. **Use regular peanut butter, not natural or fat-free. For those with 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. Place the stick with ants directly into the bag carefully, so the ants don't fall off.

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



How to identify the LFA:

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



Look-alike: Tropical fire ant

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

View the video **How to Test for LFA** at vimeo.com/97558997

REPORT

Call the Hawai'i 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) to 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 the LFA

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

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 prevent their spread.



An entire LFA colony can fit in a macadamia nut shell.

- LFAs don't form mounds.
- Their nests don't have distinct openings; they occur in moist, shady areas, in trees, under bark, under rocks, in logs and leaf litter.