

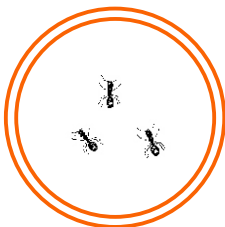
# ANTS

## Pest Control Factsheet 4

### GENERAL

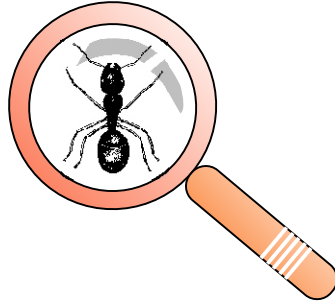
- More than 10,000 species worldwide
- Ants live in colonies with one to several queens
- Ants are very adaptable and will colonise environments which range from the arctic regions to the tropics and from dry deserts to very moist environments.
- Worker ants will live up to 7 years, queens may survive for up to 15 years.

ACTUAL SIZE



Worker ants

MAGNIFIED VIEW



### BLACK GARDEN ANT (*LASIUS NIGER*)

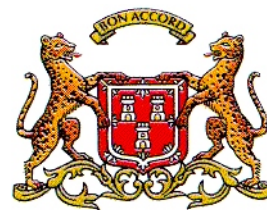
- This ant is widely distributed in Britain
- Worker ants are approximately 4mm long. Queen ants may be 10mm in length.
- Commonly found in gardens and will enter dwelling houses when foraging for food.
- Black Ants comprise: workers (sterile females); fertile mates and queens (fertile females)
- Mating takes place on the wing and occurs between mid July and mid September.
- After mating the male ants die and the females shed their wings and dig a shelter in the soil to spend the winter.
- The females will produce eggs from late spring, the first brood being workers who will forage and fend for subsequent broods. Sexually active ants are not produced until late summer.

### PUBLIC HEALTH SIGNIFICANCE of black garden ants

Minimal  Significant

### CONTROL OF BLACK ANTS

- The area where the nest of Black Ants is located may be established by following their trails.
- A residual insecticide (one which will last for several weeks if undisturbed) may be applied in and around access points to the nest.
- A band of residual insecticide or insecticide bait may be applied at entrances to buildings i.e. Doors and windows, ventilation openings and drains.
- Harbourages such as wall/ floor junctions may also be treated.
- Where habitual problems exist treatment should begin in late spring.
- Food should be suitably stored to protect it from contamination.



ABERDEEN  
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### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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