

FAST FACTS

- There are more than 12,000 species of ants all over the world.
- An ant can lift 20 times its own body weight.
- When **foraging** ants leave a **pheromone** trail, so that they know where they've been.
- Some queen ants can live for many years and have *millions* of babies!
- Ants don't have ears. Ants "hear" by feeling vibrations in the ground through their feet.
- Ants don't have lungs. They breathe through tiny holes all over their body.
- When ants fight, it is usually to the death!
- When the queen of the colony dies, the colony can only survive a few months.

General Information

This species of ant is native to Argentina and Brazil and was probably introduced to the United States in freight ships around the 1890's. These ants can be found in southern states and in California, Illinois, Maryland, Missouri, Oregon and Washington.

Size: 1/16"-1/4"	Common Name: Argentine Ant
Shape: Segmented, Oval	Kingdom: Animalia
Color: Dark brown to black; shiny	Phylum: Arthropoda
Legs: 6	Class: Insecta
Wings: Varies	Order: Hymenoptera
Antenna: Yes	Family: Formicidae
	Genus Species: Linepithema humile

Diet

Argentine Ants prefer sweet substances but will eat almost anything including meats, eggs, oils and fats. Also, when foraging for food, Argentine ants leave pheromone trails everywhere they go, instead of just from nest to food source. This habit ensures they do not waste time visiting the same area twice. While in other ant species worker ants are primarily responsible for gather food, Argentine queens also assist with foraging for food.

Habitat

Argentine ant colonies are located in wet environments near a food source. These colonies can grow to monumental size, sometimes covering entire habitats, such as an entire garden or your whole back yard.

Impact

Argentine ants do not pose a health threat, but they can contaminate food by leaving their bodily waste behind.

See other side for suggestion on preventing this pest.



ARGENTINE ANT INFO SHEET

Prevention

- Eliminate standing water. Pests, such as ants, mosquitoes and termites, are attracted to moisture.
- Keep tree branches and other plants cut back from the house. Sometimes pests use these branches to get into your home.
- Make sure that there are no cracks or little openings around the bottom of your house. Sometimes pests use these to get into your home.
- Make sure that firewood and building materials are not stored next to your home. Pests like to build nests in stacks of wood.

To learn more about this and other ants, visit <http://www.pestworldforkids.org/ants.html>