

## Garden Ants

Garden ants do not pose any public health risks and do not present any danger or risk to residents. They are a nuisance however and are very difficult to get rid of.

Glasgow City Council does not carry out pest control treatment to eradicate garden ants and this leaflet contains some useful information to help residents deal with garden ant problems. The Association is not responsible for dealing with garden ant problems.

Garden Ants: The Facts: -

- Garden ants are 3.4 - 5mm in length.
- They usually nest outdoors, in lawns, in flower beds and under slabs.
- Although found outdoors, they can make their way into homes in large numbers through small gaps in brickwork and entrance doors as they search for food.
- Garden ants are attracted to sweet foods so you should take care to ensure that you don't drop food or spill soft drinks in the house or outside as this will attract them in large numbers.
- Ants are social insects and live in a nest.
- The Queen ant lays eggs which hatch into larvae in late spring. The Queen ant rears them and after 3 weeks the larvae pupae become worker ants.
- These worker ants go foraging for food and help look after the next generation of garden ants.

### How can you treat the problem?

You can carry out treatment against ants yourself but must be thorough and methodical.

You may find the following information useful

- Apply a residual insecticide for crawling insects. These are readily available in many DIY stores and garden centres. There are a broad range of proprietary brands available.
- Apply the insecticide to the entrance to the nest and at any other areas where the ants are entering the property. This includes areas where any wastepipes or other services enter the building. Make sure that the insecticide is worked into any cracks and crevices.
- To ensure that you get rid of the problem, you will need to find the nest. You can do this by following ant trails and looking for small entrance holes in the ground, surrounded by small piles of earth.
- Once you have found the nest make sure to follow the instructions that come with the pesticide about dealing with ants' nests.
- Always make sure that you read the product information carefully and follow the instructions exactly. Pesticides should be used with care and you should wear gloves and appropriate clothing to ensure you minimise the risk of contact with

your skin and eyes.

### **Private Pest Control Companies**

There are a number of private pest control companies who can also deal with the problem and if you wish to utilise the services of a company we would recommend that you check to ensure that the contractor is a member of the trade body B.P.C.A. (British Pest Control Association). You will see details of this in advertising material or in the company's entry in any business directory publication.

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