

**Bug Man Pest and Pool**  
**Fire Ant Fact Sheet**  
**[www.TheGreenBugMan.com](http://www.TheGreenBugMan.com)**

- The Red Fire Ant was brought into the State accidentally through the port of Mobile, Alabama in a load of cargo.
- Fire ants are a problem in most of the Southeast.
- Fire ants favor warm, sunny conditions. They prefer dry fields and avoid shady areas, such as woods.
- Fire ants are social insects that nest in the soil in large colonies that contain tens of thousands to more than 200,000 ants.
- Worker fire ants vary in size, but all are capable of stinging.
- Foraging workers exit the mound through underground tunnels that radiate away from the mound, exiting to the surface five to 25 feet away from the mound.
- For every large mound in a lawn, there are usually many younger colonies that are still too small to produce visible mounds.
- When attacking, fire ants first use their mandibles to grip their prey, and then inject venom through a stinger.
- Fire ants bite when they sense movement. They swarm their prey, then after one ant bites and the prey moves, the rest will bite.
- Fire ant stings are painful for most humans and fatal to some.
- If you have hives, itching and swelling in areas other than the place you were bitten, have nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, tightness in the chest, difficulty breathing, swelling of the throat, tongue, lips, or difficulty swallowing following a fire ant bite, seek medical attention immediately.
- Some home remedies for fire ant bites include: taking an antihistamine or using hydrocortisone cream topically; applying meat tenderizer, hand sanitizer, or plain rubbing alcohol to the bites; applying an ice pack; and applying an ammonia-containing product, such as window cleaner.
- Many home remedies have been devised to control fire ants, such as drenching a mound with boiling water, applying instant grits, molasses, aspartame, gasoline or diesel fuels, chlorine, ammonia, club soda, etc. Those methods are labor intensive, rarely work, may contaminate soil and groundwater, kill plants, can be dangerous, and are discouraged.

**We are trained to handle your fire ant problem!**

**Call us today – 281-804-9531!**