# BAITS, BARRIERS, and CONTACT SPRAYS?

### ANT BAITS

- Made from an attractive food laced either with a toxin or an insect growth regulator (IGR).
- Ants feed on the bait, return to the nest leaving a trail for others to follow, and then regurgitates the bait to share with the rest of the colony.
- Baits are the most effective method for controlling Little Fire Ants because foraging ants take the bait back to the most important targets hidden in the nest – the queens!
- Baits are broadcasted over an entire property every 4-6 weeks.

1

Ants feed

on bait

Ants leave a phenomone

trail to lead other ants

to the bait.

### - TWO TYPES OF ANT BAITS

**TOXIC BAITS** - Made with a very small amount of slow-acting toxin so ants have time to make their way back to the nest and share the bait with other members of the colony before they are killed within 72 hours.

**IGR BAITS** – Does not kill the ants. Instead, it prevents ant young from developing into adults and reduces egg production by queens. Without the ability to grow and reproduce, the colony dies out.

#### 3 Ants feed bait to other ants in the nest

**4** Ants feed bait to lanvae

Ants feed bait to queen

### BARRIER TREATMENTS

- Insecticide applied around areas where ants are to be excluded. Comes in a liquid or granule.
- As ants crawl over the treated areas, they come into contact with the toxin and are killed. Has a residual effect; can last for months.
- Only kills foraging ants. Does not affect the rest of the colony.

## CONTACT SPRAYS

- An insecticide that works at the point of contact, killing only the ants that you see and spray. Has no residual effect.
- Spray options available for use in gardens.
- Not useful for controlling ants except for instances

where you wish to remove individual ants from a particular location for a short period of time.