

Hawaii Ant Lab

# GEL BAIT RECIPE

## Supplies



BUCKET



ZEP SPRAY BOTTLE



DRILL WITH PAINT MIXER



MEASURING SPOONS



FUNNEL



MEASURING CUP

## Ingredients



### FINISHED QUANTITY

	1 QT	1 GAL	2 GAL	4 GAL
TREATMENT AREA	5,000 – 10,000 sq ft	½ – 1 acre	1 -2 acres	2-4 acres
WATER	2 ¼ c	2 ¼ qt (9 c)	4 ½ qt (18 c)	9 qt (36 c)
XANTHAN GUM	2 tsp	2 ½ Tbsp	1/3 c	2/3 c
PEANUT BUTTER	1 ½ Tbsp	6 ¼ Tbsp	¾ c	1 ½ c
VEGETABLE OR CORN OIL	1 ¼ c	1 ¼ qt (5 c)	2 ½ qt (10 c)	5 qt (20 c)

### PESTICIDE QUANTITY

TANGO* or ADVION® WDG*	3 Tbsp	¾ c	1 ½ c	3 c
	⅞ Tbsp (½ packet)	1 ⅞ Tbsp (2 packets)	3 ¾ Tbsp (4 packets)	7 ½ Tbsp (8 packets)

\*Choose only **one** pesticide! **Tango™** may be applied on edible plants, whereas **Advion® WDG** is only labeled for ornamentals.

CONVERSIONS: 3 tsp = 1 Tbsp; 16 Tbsp = 1 c; 4 c = 1 qt

## Directions

- 1 Read the pesticide label carefully before starting and make sure you follow all directions listed.
- 2 Put on your proper personal protective equipment (PPE) including chemical-resistant gloves, eye protection, long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and closed-toed shoes plus socks.
- 3 Combine **Tango** or **Advion WDG** and **water** in a bucket. Only mix **one** pesticide choice in a batch of gel bait.
- 4 Start mixing at a slow speed with your drill and paint mixer attachment and **very slowly** add the **Xanthan gum**. Continue to mix at the highest speed safely possible until everything is evenly combined. It should look like thick, sticky goop. It can be difficult to mix the Xanthan gum so be patient and dust it in **very slowly**. If not thoroughly mixed, little lumps can clog the nozzle of spray equipment.
- 5 Add the **peanut butter** and **oil**. At this point, the oil will sit on top of the water/Xanthan mixture. Mix at high speed until evenly combined. The bait should now

have the same consistency as thin pudding or gravy.

- 6 Pour gel bait into the ZEP spray bottle using a funnel. If treating a larger area, a Jacto backpack sprayer is well-suited to hold larger quantities of gel bait. Broadcast gel bait around your property at a rate of 1-2 gallons per acre. Apply on a day with 4 hours of dry weather after treatment. Repeat treatment every 4-6 weeks. After completing a year of treatment, check your property for LFA. If still present, continue treatment.

## Tips

- If you continue to have issues with your ZEP bottle clogging, mix the Xanthan gum, peanut butter, and oil in a separate bucket, and then add it the water mixture. Xanthan gum clumps less and peanut butter mixes easier when added to oil first.
- To make the gel bait even more attractive to Little Fire Ants (LFA), you can replace the peanut butter with beef liver powder (use the same amount).
- For more details, refer to the manual Mixing Hawaii Ant Lab (HAL) Gel Bait for Control of Little Fire Ants.