

Yellow Crazy Ants

Pest Management Overview



Very long legs and antennae relative to other ants and their size.

Yellow-gold body with darker, partly striped bottom
Worker ants are approximately 4mm long.



Ants aggressively swarm prey.
Walking movement is fast and erratic, rarely in a straight line.
Ants spray formic acid when threatened or attacking prey.

Why should we be concerned?

- Yellow crazy ants have a wide range of impacts on the environment, industry, and liveability, to date costing our Region over \$150k to control outbreaks.
- In large numbers, they can disrupt entire ecosystems with their voracious appetites and ability to create 'super colonies' across large areas.
- If not controlled, they will impact:
 - **Liveability** - attack pets, invade homes and attack humans while they sleep with formic acid excretion, targeting the eyes and biting in numbers to subdue prey.
 - **Biodiversity** - supercolonies take over, eating all insects and small animals, leaving limited food sources for native animals. Their presence is felt by complete silence in the forest.
 - **Tourism industry** - from above biodiversity and lifestyle impacts.
 - **Agriculture industry** - Limit ability to move machinery.

HOW TO REPORT SIGHTING

Current infestations are known in Shute Harbour, Funnel Bay, Hamilton Island, Mandalay and Woodwark, but they could be more widespread.

Report a sighting

1. Examine ants and their behaviour, compare to other local ants via this fact sheet. View this [video of Yellow Crazy Ants](#) to compare their erratic behaviour.
2. Notify Council of the location of Ants, by emailing Info@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au or phone 1300 972 753.
3. Limit the movement of materials or vehicles parked in ants known location until WRC officers can treat.

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How to Identify

Who is most likely to discover Yellow Crazy Ants?

- Current 'known' infestation areas are in Shute Harbour, Funnel Bay, Mandalay and Woodwark, but they may be elsewhere in the Region.
- They may slowly spread from these locations if unchecked or appear in new locations spread by vehicles, machinery, construction materials or green waste.
- They likely entered the Region via construction materials or machinery that was located in infested areas in Townsville.
- Residents, property managers, real estate agents, builders, roofers, plumbers, landscapers, developers or pest controllers may be most likely to discover ants, likely associated with nearby new buildings, extensions, construction or earthworks.
- Residents in or near infested areas should be highly aware and the broader community should take notice of ants in public space, creeklines and their own property to ensure any outbreak can be managed before impacting your lifestyle, environment, tourism or agricultural industries.

Current 'known' infestations in Greater Airlie Beach Area



Whitsunday Ants comparison chart

Please immediately contact Council if you identify Yellow Crazy Ants that do not look like other local ants identified right.

Ph: 1300 972 573
E: info@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au

