

Fire Ants Invading North Carolina Are Described As Vicious And Destructive

Just what kind of critter is the imported fire ant?

This question might be in the minds of many people reading or hearing about the imported fire ant -- subject of an intensive eradication campaign about to get underway in North Carolina.

C. H. Brannon, state entomologist of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, gives this thumbnail sketch of the imported fire ant.

The imported fire ant is a native of South America. It entered this country around 1918, but because it closely resembled native fire ants (in looks) it was not identified as a separate species until 1930.

Imported fire ants are small in size. Worker ants vary from one-eighth to one-fourth inch long, but they make up for their lack of size by their aggressiveness and numbers.

As fighters, they have few equals. They will bite and sting anything that goes near their mounds. On the attack they sink their jaws into the flesh, bring their abdomen forward and drive their stinger into the skin injecting a poison. The stings are painful and cause a festering sore susceptible to infection. The stings are dangerous to young children or persons allergic to the poison. One mound may contain 100,000 ants--all ready and willing to fight any intruder.

The ants' mound building habits are even more disconcerting than their stinging habits. Other ants build mounds but they are pikers compared to the imported fire ant. In heavily infested areas, 40 mounds per acre are common. These mounds vary in size up to about 18 inches. Since these mounds are crusty and hard, they pose a real problem during seeding, fertilizing and harvesting.

Although the ants will build mounds in almost any kind of terrain, they prefer land exposed to the sun. Therefore, some of the most valuable farming and pasture land is usually hardest hit. Whenever land is cultivated only intermittently, as in improved pastures, imported fire ants increase rapidly. This is especially im-



FIRE ANT MOUNDS—Along with having many other bad characteristics, fire ants can outdo other ants in mound building. Some of their mounds are up to three feet in height. This picture was taken in the lower South where fire ants have been a problem for many years. (USDA photo)

portant in North Carolina where livestock production and dairying represent a vital part of the agricultural economy.

Another strong suit of imported fire ants is their adaptability. They can live on a great variety of food including cabbage, corn, collards, eggplant, and potatoes, and they can tolerate a wide range of climatic conditions. For example, at the Gulfport, Miss., Imported Fire Ant Laboratory, the ants have been quick-frozen and kept at below zero temperature for two hours, thawed out and returned to below-zero temperatures for another two hours. After being thawed out again, the ants were as frisky as ever.

As practical evidence of their adaptability, it might be worth noting that the ants have already spread east-to-west from Morehead City, N. C., to San Antonio, Texas, a distance of about 1,250 air miles, and they've moved all the way south to Miami, Florida. The ability

to spread quickly and widely is the reason State and Federal plant control officials are anxious to clear up the state's only large infestation in Carteret and Craven Counties. The eradication program in this area is scheduled to start this month.

Like most insects, imported fire ants are well organized. Divided into three forms: (1) winged, fertile females (queens); (2) winged, fertile males; and (3) worker ants (sterile females), each group carries out its own clearly defined duties. At mating time, usually in the spring, queens take to the air and mate with fertile males. The queen returns to earth, sheds her now worthless wings, digs a brood chamber and goes to work laying eggs. She also takes care of the first brood.

Worker ants take care of later broods, handle the fighting, and move the colony whenever necessary. The winged males die soon after fulfilling their one function -- mating.

USDA Plant Pest Control scientists, who have been fighting these ants since 1957, are using the imported fire ants' penchant for organization against them. Only recently these scientists devised a new bait which has proved unusually effective. The bait is composed of ground corn cobs, soybean oil, and a small amount of slow acting insecticide. Because of its delayed action, foraging worker ants can carry the bait into the colony and feed the soybean oil to the queen and larvae before the insecticide starts taking effect. If it killed some of the ants quickly, the others would become suspicious and leave the area before getting a fatal dose of the insecticide.

After the soybean oil (and insecticide) is removed from the corn cob grits, the worker ants dutifully remove the grits from the mound and stack them in a neat pile.

After the soybean oil (and insecticide) is removed from the corn cob grits, the worker ants dutifully remove the grits from the mound and stack them in a neat pile. This enables pest control workers to see how well the ants are taking the bait.

And, as one final ironic note, plant pest control workers use the ants' good housekeeping practices to determine the effectiveness of the bait. As the ants die off, other ants remove the bodies and place them in an ant "bone-yard" outside the mound.

Witnesses To Hold Meet At Henderson

About 10 delegates from the North Unit Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses here in Warrenton will attend a three-day circuit convention in Henderson, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 1-3, according to a statement made here by J. R. Davis, local presiding minister.

The meeting will be held at the Eaton Johnson School in Henderson. More than 600 witnesses from 15 other cities are expected. Sessions will begin Friday, May 1, at 8:45 p. m. The theme of this three-day conference, sponsored by the Watchtower Society, is "Around the World with Jehovah's Witnesses." The progress of the circuit during the past six months will be reviewed.

Saturday's program will include baptismal arrangements for new witnesses and an inspiring all-color free movie with scenes from Europe, Asia, and the Holy Land. The title of the picture is "Proclaiming Everlasting Good News Around the World."

The featured event of this Henderson meeting will be a public discourse Sunday at 3:00 p. m. by the district supervisor, Willie Anderson on the

Negro FARM AGENT NEWS
LEONARD C. COOPER
 Negro County Agent
G. W. KOONCE
 Asst. Negro County Agent

Warren Capable Of Larger Cuke Crop

Warren County is nursing a silent industry in the field of cucumber production. With the high demand for cukes in North Carolina and the nation, there is no reason why we cannot boost our farm income by a substantial amount from the production of cukes.

All of us should plant and fertilize this crop to ascertain maximum yields. The State average yield is 200 bushels per acre. We can do better than State this year. We have farmers grossing - \$400.00 to \$500.00 per acre.

Two major production factors for good yields are, fertilization and harvesting. You must use 8-8-8 fertilizer at planting because it has sulphate of potash, and grain fertilizer carrying muriate of potash will not give these cucumber plants the desired potash nutrient when it is most needed by the plant.

If you don't plant your cukes by April 31, you're late and consequently will be late for harvesting. Cucumber production is a big and growing business in North Carolina. If you don't plan to stay ahead its a known fact that you're not only going to be left behind, you're going to be put out of cuke production, because there are other counties that are going to do the job and do it right.

subject, "Facing up to the Urgency of Our Times." The public is cordially invited to attend all sessions, Davis said.

... Marriage is the alliance of two people, one of whom never remembers birthdays and the other never forgets them.

Voter Registration Drive Is Underway In Warren

The Warren County Voters Registration Project is currently conducting an extensive campaign to get every qualified citizen in Warren, Vance and Franklin counties registered by May 30. Mrs. Eva Clayton of Warrenton, co-chairman of the project, said yesterday.

Serving with Mrs. Clayton as co-chairman is Spencer Skipper of Norlina. Mrs. Edna Wright is secretary of the committee, and Tom Basket is treasurer.

The Voters Registration Committee, Mrs. Clayton said, is composed of representatives from the NAACP, Multi-County Civic Association, and other civic and religious organizations throughout the three counties.

"The need for all citizens to express themselves in a representative government is vital to the democratic ideal," Mrs. Clayton said. "Many citizens have not been conscience of the importance of voting and participating fully in the political life of their community. This Voter Registration Project is a non-partisan effort to stimulate all citizens to function fully as a citizen by registering and voting on all issues and candidates."

The Warren Voter Registration Project will work cooperatively with the state program of the NAACP and other civic organizations that are interested in voter-registration as a project. Mrs. Clayton said the drive will include the following activities:

- (1) Workshops in churches and homes in the 12 townships of the county.
- (2) Door-to-door canvasses will be conducted by adult and youth leaders to contact their neighbors and friends about registering.
- (3) Distribution of voter-registration information and lit-

erature throughout the county. Headquarters for the project has been set up on East Franklin Street in Warrenton on the second floor of Brown's Building. This office is open daily to assist anyone desiring information on registering and for persons who are interested in volunteering to help in this important movement. All interested citizens are asked to help make this registration drive a big success.

The Voter Education Project of Atlanta, Georgia has expressed enthusiastic interest in the efforts of the Warren County Project and is expected to make a grant to help finance the registration efforts, Mrs. Clayton said.

FOR SALE
D-10 Series II Tractor
TRACTOR

COLE PLANTER, FERTILIZER ATTACHMENT, CULTIVATORS, DISC HARROW, PLOW, DISC HILLERS, TOBACCO HILLERS, FUMIGATION TANK AND MOWER. ALL THIS EQUIPMENT IS IN GOOD CONDITION AND IS A STEAL AT THE PRICE OF

\$2995

BOUGHT NEW IN MID '62

C & S TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT CO.
 PHONE 257-3990 WARRENTON, N. C.

65 OR OVER?

We have full enrollment information and forms for

VIRGINIA NORTH CAROLINA 65 HEALTH INSURANCE
 for people 65 or over

- no medical examination
- up to \$10,000 in lifetime Major Medical benefits
- policies won't be cancelled because of prolonged illness

Here is insurance protection that can help you keep your independence. Virginia-North Carolina 65 Health Insurance is available exclusively to residents of Virginia and North Carolina who are 65 or over, and to their spouses regardless of age.

We will be happy to help you enroll. But ACT RIGHT AWAY! Enrollment April 20 - May 20 only!

Wade R. Taylor
 Tel. 257-4532 Warrenton, N. C.

Witnesses To Hold Meet At Henderson

About 10 delegates from the North Unit Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses here in Warrenton will attend a three-day circuit convention in Henderson, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 1-3, according to a statement made here by J. R. Davis, local presiding minister.

The meeting will be held at the Eaton Johnson School in Henderson. More than 600 witnesses from 15 other cities are expected. Sessions will begin Friday, May 1, at 8:45 p. m. The theme of this three-day conference, sponsored by the Watchtower Society, is "Around the World with Jehovah's Witnesses." The progress of the circuit during the past six months will be reviewed.

Saturday's program will include baptismal arrangements for new witnesses and an inspiring all-color free movie with scenes from Europe, Asia, and the Holy Land. The title of the picture is "Proclaiming Everlasting Good News Around the World."

The featured event of this Henderson meeting will be a public discourse Sunday at 3:00 p. m. by the district supervisor, Willie Anderson on the

Spring SPECIALS

— AT — **TRAYLOR APPLIANCES**

GE

● Filter Flo
 ● Water Saver
 ● Hot, Warm & Cold Water Wash Selector
 ● Warm - Cold Rinse Selector
 ● Three Cycle Including Soak
 ● Big, 12 lb. Capacity
 ● Easy Installed

\$199.95 w/t

EASY TERMS

ICE TRAY SPECIAL 99¢

General Electric Hi-Speed Range

● Fast, flameless
 ● Big 23" Master Oven, Broiler

● Pushbutton Controls
 ● Fluorescent Light

only \$199.95 w/t

Ask about our easy terms

HALIFAX ELECTRIC CORP. MEMBERS WILL GET \$25.00 FOR CHANGING TO ELECTRIC COOKING & WATER HEATING

Springtime and Fertilizer Time Go Hand In Hand

Smith Douglass Fertilizer

and Higher Profits Go Hand In Hand

— WE HAVE IN STOCK —

a complete line of well cured highest quality fertilizer to make the highest profit for you

ORANGE 3-9-9 or 4-8-12 FOR TOBACCO

Square Deal 4-8-12 Or 5-10-10 For Cotton, Corn, & General Crops

Bag - Bulk - Spreader Service - Take Your Pick

— COMPLETE LINE OF —

Herbicides, Pesticides and Chemicals. Place your order now for custom application of TREFLAN and ATRAZINE for weed and grass control in cotton and corn.

—CALL—

BOYD'S WAREHOUSE 257-3295

— OR SEE —

WALKER P. BURWELL **FOSTER THOMPSON**

GENERAL ELECTRIC FROST-GUARD 12 REFRIGERATOR-FREEZER

● FROST-GUARD!
 ● NO DEFROSTING EVER!
 ● BIG ZERO-DEGREE FREEZER!
 ● ROOMY REFRIGERATOR SECTION!
 ● ONLY 28" WIDE!
 12 cu. ft. Net Volume.

\$3.25 Per Week w/t

Ask about our easy payment terms—big trade-ins

USED RANGES from \$25.00

GOOD SELECTION OF USED FREEZERS We Offer Service By Factory Trained Personnel

NEW STOCK G.E. HAIR DRYERS **\$14.95**

SPECIAL PRICED FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Visit Our Store — You'll Like Our New Appliances!

TRAYLOR APPLIANCES, INC.

WARRENTON Telephone 257-3189