

Fire Ant Fact Sheet

Movement controls: Non-commercial activities



INTRODUCTION

Fire ants, or the Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA), are a serious exotic pest and are easily spread. To date, they have infested the south-western area of Brisbane, Ipswich and some suburbs at the mouth of the Brisbane River.

To prevent the spread of fire ants, part of the strategy includes movement controls, or restrictions of the movement of any *high-risk materials* that can spread the ants.

Fire ants can be spread in high-risk materials such as:

- soil
- baled hay and straw
- pot plants and potting mix
- mulch and green waste
- landscaping and construction materials
- machinery and equipment
- material that may have come into contact with the ground.

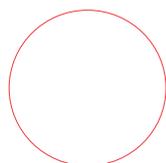
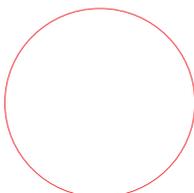
What are movement controls?

These are special regulations that will help the DPI eradicate the fire ant. Movement controls prohibit the human-assisted movement of some high-risk materials from inside the restricted area to outside the restricted area. The restricted area is the area currently being treated for fire ants in the south-western Brisbane suburbs, eastern Ipswich and in the suburbs around the mouth of the Brisbane River.

The controls are part of the *Plant Protection Act 1989*, and its associated regulation, which provides penalties of up to \$15 000 for the provision of false or misleading information. The Act also provides penalties of up to \$75 000 for individuals, and up to \$375 000 for corporations, for moving a live fire ant or breaching the movement regulations.

Movement controls vary according to:

- whether fire ants are present
- what type of material is being moved
- destination of the material
- whether the material has been treated or not.



The controls detail when documentation is required for moving materials, and when the destination of material is limited to DPI-approved disposal sites. These are detailed below in this fact sheet. **The controls apply to movement of materials out of and within the restricted area.**

Members of the public can view maps of the restricted area at:

- DPI web site www.dpi.qld.gov.au
- local, state and federal government electorate offices in Brisbane, Ipswich and Logan and Redlands
- Fire Ant Control Centre, 81A Seventeen Mile Rocks Road, Oxley, Brisbane
- libraries in Brisbane, Ipswich and Logan

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: general information

Businesses inside the restricted area that deal in high-risk materials or those outside the restricted area that provide a service to move high-risk materials from the restricted area (e.g. landscapers, pool builders) need to comply with DPI movement controls. These businesses should have a DPI Approved Risk Management Plan (ARMP) to prevent the spread of fire ants. Having an ARMP allows a business to use the DPI approved sign.

Sign for businesses inside the restricted area who have ARMPs in place.



Businesses without an ARMP must complete a Fire Ant Declaration (FAD) form for the movement of high-risk materials to outside the restricted area and, in some cases, for internal movement as well. These forms explain and detail the source and fire ant status of any high-risk product leaving the restricted area.

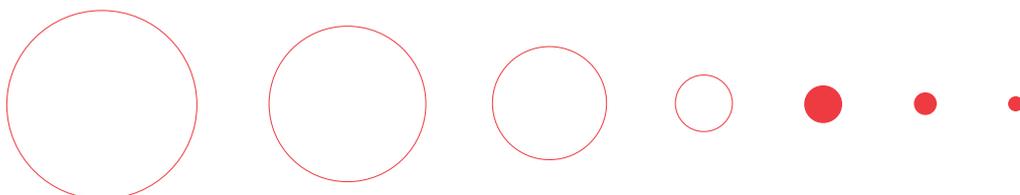
Businesses outside the restricted area not sourcing or dealing with high-risk materials inside the restricted area do not need an ARMP.

Fire Ant Declaration — FAD

The FAD is a simple form that:

- records the fire ant status of the material to be moved
- specifies prevention methods used
- makes the mover or seller accountable for the declaration, not the receiver
- must accompany the material being moved
- must be retained by the receiver of the material for 12 months.

Businesses must provide evidence they have an ARMP on their documentation (through either use of the sign or copy of approval certificate), or provide a FAD when they are purchasing high-risk



materials. Similarly, contractors working in the restricted area must supply similar documentation (sign, ARMP or FAD) when moving high-risk materials from residential properties inside the restricted area.

RESIDENTS' ACTIVITIES: general information

You cannot move fire ant infested materials outside the restricted area.

In some situations residents will need to complete a simple form, a FAD, if moving hay or straw. Conditions for moving high-risk materials are detailed below.

Make sure when purchasing high-risk material from inside the restricted area that it is from a business with the DPI Fire Ant Approved sign. Similarly, when using service providers to move high-risk materials ensure they are using this sign. This sign means the business has a DPI Approved Risk Management Plan (ARMP).

You must have an ARMP or complete a FAD if selling pot plants at markets, fetes or from home.

Where to get a FAD

- DPI web site www.dpi.qld.gov.au/fireants
- local, state and federal government offices in Brisbane, Ipswich and Logan and Redlands
- Fire Ant Control Centre, 81A Seventeen Mile Rocks Road, Oxley, Brisbane
- libraries in Brisbane, Ipswich and Logan

General household waste and rubbish may still be disposed of in the normal ways including putting it in the bin or taking it to a transfer station.

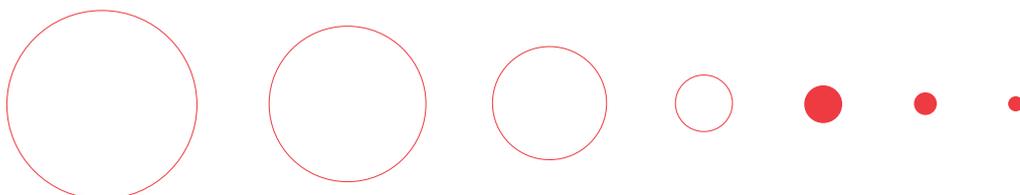
MOVING SOIL

The controls apply for private movement of less than 1 cubic metre of soil by the residents. For larger amounts, the controls for the commercial movement of soil apply (Refer fact sheet Movement controls: Commercial activities).

No soil can be moved outside the restricted area unless it has been purchased from an approved business and moved directly from there outside the area.

For soil sourced or originating from a property inside the restricted area where the site has been inspected by the owner and found to have no visible fire ants, the soil may **only be moved within the restricted area**. No documentation is required for this movement.

When moving soil sourced or originating from a property **inside** the restricted area, the site of the soil to be moved must be inspected by the owner. If it is found to be **visually infested** with fire ants the nests must be treated on site by DPI within 28 days prior to moving the soil. Soil may then be



moved only to a DPI-approved disposal site within the restricted area under secure conditions to prevent the escape of the material. A permit to move this soil will be provided by DPI when conducting the nest treatments.

Potting mix may be moved freely with no documentation if it is packed in the original sealed bag or other container in which it was commercially packed and has been stored in conditions that prevent infestation by fire ants.

MOVING BALED HAY/STRAW

For baled hay/straw to be moved from a property inside the restricted area to anywhere in Queensland it must have been stored off the ground or on concrete to prevent infestation, or treated with methyl bromide by a licensed fumigator. A FAD must accompany the hay and straw when it is moved. The hay or straw must have been sourced or originated from either outside the restricted area or inside the restricted area from a business with an ARMP.

MOVING POT PLANTS

Pot plants must be bare-rooted and re-potted prior to moving from inside to outside the restricted area.

Pot plants may be moved within the restricted area only without being bare-rooted and re-potted.

No documentation is required for moving pot plants unless they are being sold.

Selling pot plants is a commercial activity and the controls for the movement of commercial pot plants must be followed (Refer fact sheet Movement controls: Commercial activities).

MOVING MULCH/GRASS CLIPPINGS/BRANCHES

There is no restriction on the movement of this material if there is no soil attached to the material. If there is soil on or in the material then the controls for moving soil must be followed.

**Remember fire ants are a serious threat to our lifestyle,
environment and agriculture.**

Don't spread the fire ant.

