

# Garden Ants

## What do they look like?

The black/garden ant is the most common British ant. It is dark brown or black and approximately 5mm long.

The queen ant only appears during the summer months. It is a mid brown colour and approximately 15mm long.

## Where do they live?

The queen makes its nest in either soil, grassed areas or beneath paving and patios, as well as hollow trees. Nests are mainly found outside buildings, however they are occasionally built in the walls or foundations of houses.

## What do they eat?

Foraging workers follow defined trails to their feeding grounds, which can be many metres from their nest. Ants can enter buildings through extremely narrow crevices. Sweet substances attract ants foraging for food. Generally, if one ant finds food many more will follow.

## Can ants harm us?

Ants are no risk to human health, but can cause a nuisance. There has been an emergence of winged ants during the summer months. These can be a nuisance, however they are harmless creatures.

## How do you treat and control ants?

**Insecticidal dusts** can be used to effectively treat garden ants. These can be purchased from hardware shops, do-it yourself shops and garden centres. The treatment should be used in cracks and crevices where nests are located.

**Insecticidal aerosols:** These are the most effective treatment for crawling insects. Spray into cracks and crevices and around skirting boards, door frames, air bricks and any other access points. Aerosols can be used to control flying insects.

**Bait formulations:** This treatment relies on worker ants taking the bait back to the ant nest for consumption.

**Pesticide treatments - always follow the instructions stated on the label.**



## Knowsley Pest Control Service:

**We can provide a service, however a charge will be incurred.**

Commercial pest control companies are listed in the Yellow Pages and Thompson's Local Directory.