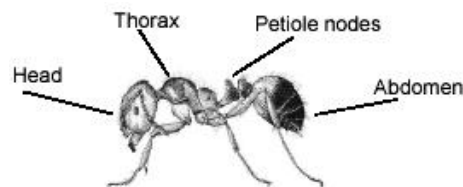

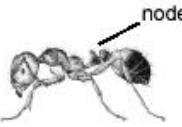


Effective management approaches vary with ant species. Use behavioral characteristics such as food and nesting preferences along with physical characteristics to identify ants. A first step in identifying ants is to use a magnifier to determine if they have one or two nodes at the petiole of their abdomen. Locate the petiole, the first portion of the abdomen, and count the number of nodes present.



<p style="text-align: center;">One-node ant</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Two-node ant</p> 
<p>Argentine ant (<i>Linepithema humile</i>)</p> <p>Food: sweets, sometimes proteins. Nest: outdoors in shallow mounds.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1/8 inch, dull brown</p>	<p>Pavement ant (<i>Tetramorium caespitum</i>)</p> <p>Food: sweets, proteins, grease. Nest: in lawns or under stones, boards; build mounds along sidewalks, foundations, and near water.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3/16 inch, dark brown to black</p>
<p>Carpenter ant (<i>Camponotus</i> spp.)</p> <p>Food: sweets. Nest: in tree stumps, firewood, fence posts, hollow doors or window frames; deposit sawdustlike frass outside of nests.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Large, 1/4 to 1/2 inch, black or bicolored red or black</p>	<p>Pharaoh ant (<i>Monomorium pharaonis</i>)</p> <p>Food: fats, proteins, sweets. Nest: in wall or cabinet voids, behind baseboards, or insulation or outdoors in debris.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1/16 inch, yellow or honeycolored to orange</p>
<p>Odorous house ant (<i>Tapinoma sessile</i>)</p> <p>Food: sweets, sometimes proteins. Nest: in shallow mounds in soil or debris, or indoors in wall voids, around water pipes or heaters.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1/8 inch, dark brown to shiny black; very strong odor when crushed</p>	<p>Red imported fire ant (<i>Solenopsis invicta</i>)</p> <p>Food: sweets, proteins. Nest: in mounds with multiple openings in soil or lawns and sometimes in buildings behind wall voids.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1/16 to 1/5 inch, reddish with dark brown abdomen</p>
<p>Velvety tree ant (<i>Liometopum occidentale</i>)</p> <p>Food: sweets and insects. Nest: in dead wood such as old tree limbs, stumps, and logs.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1/8 to 1/4 inch, brownish-black head, red thorax, and velvety black abdomen; very distinct odor when crushed</p>	<p>Southern fire ant (<i>Solenopsis xyloni</i>)</p> <p>Food: proteins and sweets. Nest: in small mounds with flattened irregular craters in wood, under rocks.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1/8 to 1/4 inch, amber head and thorax with black abdomen, body covered with golden hairs</p>
	<p>Thief ant (<i>Solenopsis molesta</i>)</p> <p>Food: greasy and fatty foods, sometimes sweets. Steal food and ant larvae from other ant nests. Nest: outdoors in soil, under rocks or decaying wood or indoors behind wallboards or baseboards.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1/32 inch, yellow to light brown</p>

Identifying Features of Common Household Ants.

Adapted from U.S. Dept. of Agriculture technical bulletin No. 1326, *House-Infesting Ants of the Eastern United States: Their Recognition, Biology, and Economic Importance*, by Marion R. Smith, 1965.