

## Pest Profile



Photo credit: [Kira Metz](#), USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

**Common Name:** Southern fire Ant

**Scientific Name:** *Solenopsis xyloni*

**Order and Family:** Hymenoptera: Formicidae

**Size and Appearance:** Worker

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>		White, very small and difficult to see, found generally only in underground nests unless the nest is disturbed.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>		White, grub-like, found within the nest.
<b>Adult</b>	Workers: 3mm – 6.5mm	Amber, orange-red, or dark brown head and thorax, large eyes, abdomen is black with yellow-gold hairs.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		White with black eye spots, darkening with age, resemble adults, found within the nest.

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Chewing

**Host plant/s:** Citrus species, seeds, almonds, tree bark, honeydew.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Feed on flowers and destroy younger fruit. Can kill younger trees or harm older trees by eating too much bark/sap.

### References:

Southern Fire Ant. (n.d.). Retrieved from

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/TOOLS/ANTKEY/southernfire.html>

Weeks, J. A., Hodges, A. C., & Leppla, N. C. (n.d.). *Southern Fire Ant*. Retrieved from [http://idtools.org/id/citrus/pests/factsheet.php?name=Southern fire ant](http://idtools.org/id/citrus/pests/factsheet.php?name=Southern+fire+ant)