Fire Ants

Today on Gardening in a Minute, fire ants.

Fire ants are notorious for their painful, burning stings, which result in itchy bumps that can last for many days.

Fire ants are aggressive and are reddish brown to black and from one-eighth to one-quarter of an inch long. They’re native to South America and are considered invasive in the U.S.

Fire ants build large nests, usually in the form of dirt mounds, but also in rotting logs and around trees and stumps. They can even invade our homes.

There’s no way to completely eradicate fire ants, but several treatment options are available to homeowners. These include baiting or treating individual mounds.

Researchers are also studying and releasing biological control organisms like the decapitating fly to help keep these notorious pests in check!

For more information about fire ants, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.