

Ants in My Potted Plants

By Deborah Birge, Fort Bend Master Gardener

Q: What do I do about ants in my pots?

It's spring time and ants are looking to relocate to drier locales; most likely, your potted plants. This is not only inconvenient but can be damaging to the roots of your plants.

There are several methods of ridding the pots of ants but first you need to know your enemy. Baits are ant-specific so know what you are working with. One method of quickly removing ants is to drench your pot repeatedly with soapy water. One tablespoon of dish soap to one gallon of water works well. However, unless you move the container, the ants will return. More permanent solutions are included in the links below:



Root damage caused by ants

- <https://citybugs.tamu.edu/factsheets/household/ants-house/ent-2013/>
- http://counties.agrilife.org/navarro/files/2011/07/twostepfireantcontrol_3.pdf