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Aloha District 16,

October is Stop the Ant Month. Throughout this month, in partnership with the Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee, I'm raising awareness about little fire ants (LFA) and encouraging residents to collect and submit samples from their yards.

Early detection helps control the spread of LFA and other invasive pest ants that threaten Hawai'i's biosecurity. Ants are not native to Hawai'i. Little fire ants are among the most destructive invasive ants in the tropics. They're tiny—often unnoticed—but once established, colonies explode.

An average house lot can harbor up to 22 million ants. If they land on you, a pet, or wildlife, they sting. Established LFA infestations are difficult to control and can make going outside or working in the yard painful.

If we find them early, we can stop them before they take over. Please test your plants and landscaping to ensure they're LFA-free. Submitting samples takes just a few minutes and can prevent costly infestations across Kaua'i. **Inside this mailer, you'll find how to request a free ant collection kit and other useful resources.**

Sincerely,

Little Fire Ants on Kaua'i

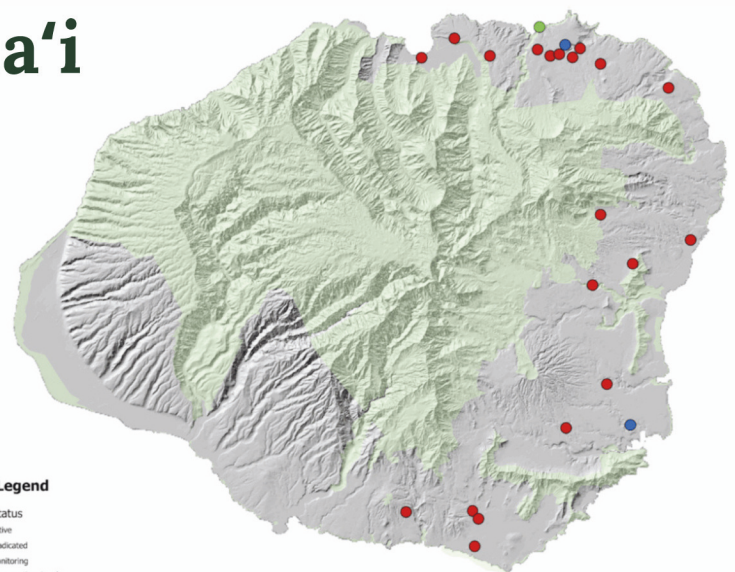
We need your help, Kaua'i! If we find them early, we can stop them before they take over.

LFA have been detected in the nursery industry across the state including nurseries on the Garden Isle.

It's important to test all your plants and landscaping to ensure your plants are free of LFA.

For more information, visit:

www.kauaiisc.org



Map Updated: September 2025

"The only hope Kaua'i has of not becoming widespread is with a massive increase in regular little fire ants sampling, beginning immediately." - KISC



The Threat of Little Fire Ants

- Little Fire ants are unfortunately present and **spreading on Kaua'i**.
- They are an **aggressive**, invasive species that inflict **painful stings** on people and animals, cause **blindness** in animals, **damage** agriculture and **harm** crops, **negatively impact** our native wildlife and ecosystems.
- They pose a **threat** to agriculture, pets, livestock, native wildlife, and humans.
- LFA are known for its **burning stings**. These stings are intense and can result in a **burning rash** that can last for **several days**.
- **Colonies** can grow in your yard unnoticed for years until there are so many that you start getting stung. Colonies can be **extremely difficult to control**.
- LFA are considered one of the **World's 100 Worst Invasive Species** (IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group).

Request a FREE Ant-Collection Kit

- Anyone can request a free ant-collection kit by visiting www.StopTheAnt.org, or can make their own using household supplies. A one-minute video, "How to Collect a Sample," is available at the website and shows the step-by-step procedure for collecting ants from your property, then submitting them for identification. Samples can be mailed or dropped off for identification at the **Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee**:
 - 808-821-1490, 7370K Kuamoo Road, Kapa'a, HI 96746
- Free kits can be found at any of our local libraries (**Princeville, Kapaa, Lihue, Koloa, Hanapepe, and Waimea**).
- To request a large property kit for farms, nurseries, or businesses, call Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee at 808-821-1490.



Little Fire Ants Affecting our Plants and Agriculture



- Little fire ants have been detected in the nursery industry across the state, including nurseries on island. **Test all your plants and landscaping to ensure your plants are free of LFA.**
- LFA are master hitchhikers and can catch a ride in anything from trucks and equipment to mulch and potted plants. **If you are bringing new plant materials onto your property, treat them as if they may already be infested.**
- Alternatively, you can easily **test for LFA using materials already available at home**: all you need is some chopsticks, peanut butter, and a ziplock bag.



Scan this QR code to find instructions on how to check your plants for ants.

