

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR LANDSCAPING BUSINESSES

Under biosecurity laws, all Queenslanders have a shared responsibility to help eradicate pests such as fire ants. The latest biosecurity regulations allow businesses and individuals to find better ways of managing their risks.

Here are some of the ways you can fulfil your biosecurity obligation.

- Understand what fire ants look like and what materials (i.e. fire ant carriers) they might be moved in
- Be aware if you are living or working in a fire ant biosecurity zone and follow movement controls
- Follow the correct procedures when moving or storing fire ant carriers
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure you do not spread fire ants
- Report suspect nests to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or [HERE](#)

IMPORTANT LINKS

Fire Ant Biosecurity Zones - Interactive map

LQ Members can use the [interactive map](#) to enter an address and check if movement controls apply to their worksite or project.

If any part of a property touches a restricted zone, the entire property is included. These zones are updated monthly based on new detections.

Link: [Fire Ant Biosecurity Zones - Interactive map](#)

Planned activities

The Fire Ant Eradication Program follows a structured **Response Plan** to control and eliminate fire ants. This **interactive map** helps businesses and contractors understand:

- **Planned treatment and surveillance activities** in their area.
- Whether a property is in an **Eradication Area** (government-led treatment) or **Suppression Area** (businesses must self-manage fire ant treatment).
- The **latest biosecurity expectations** based on location, including required fire ant-safe practices.
- Priority areas for the **National Fire Ant Eradication Program's engagement efforts**.

Link: [Planned activities](#)

Online training Links

[Training for the Landscaping Industry](#)
[Training for Primary Producers](#)
[Training for your clients - Residential Training](#)

Fire Ant Compliance Tool

An interactive tool to check fire ant movement requirements based on location and material type.

- Includes a checklist of fire ant-safe practices based on business location.
- Check carrier-specific movement rules before transporting materials.
- Allows businesses to log and track compliance actions for record-keeping.

Use the tool to report non-compliance.

Link: [Fire Ant Compliance Tool](#)



How to treat fire ants

- Video about the **program-approved treatment methods**.
- Differentiation between eradication and suppression areas:
 - **Eradication Areas** – Biosecurity Queensland applies treatment.
 - **Suppression Areas** – Businesses must conduct their own treatment program.

Link: [How to treat fire ants](#)

Processed materials Guidelines

Quarry materials, mulch, animal manure, and processed soils can spread fire ants if not properly managed. The Biosecurity Regulation 2016 outlines strict storage, treatment, and movement requirements for these materials within fire ant biosecurity zones.

Requirements for Businesses Handling Fire Ant Carriers:

- **Monthly Fire Ant Surveillance** – All businesses handling fire ant carriers **must conduct monthly inspections** to detect infestations early.
- **Storage & Movement Protocols:** If storing fire ant carriers (**soil, mulch, manure, turf, quarry materials, etc.**) for more than **24 hours**, businesses must:
 - **Cover and store** materials on a **fire ant-resistant surface** or treated ground.
 - Apply a **perimeter insecticide treatment** using a **bifenthrin-based product**.
 - **Disturb stored materials** every **21 days** or **within 24 hours before movement**.
- **Machinery & Equipment** – Any machinery or equipment with **soil or organic material attached** must be **cleaned before leaving site** to prevent fire ant spread.

Businesses must also keep records of compliance actions for at least two years to demonstrate due diligence and avoid penalties.

Link: [Processed materials Guidelines](#)

Landscaping Industry Tools and Resources

- Biosecurity Record-Keeping Requirements: Businesses must **maintain records** for at least **two years** to demonstrate compliance. Records should include:
 - Fire ant awareness **training logs** for staff.
 - **Monthly surveillance records**, including who conducted the inspection and any suspect detections.
 - **Treatment records**, including dates, locations, products used, and application methods.
 - **Movement tracking** for fire ant carriers.

Penalties for non-compliance: Up to 800 penalty units or 6 months imprisonment.

Link: [Landscaping Industry Tools and Resources](#)

GBO for Business

This guideline helps businesses understand and meet their legal obligations under the Biosecurity Act 2014 by outlining steps to manage fire ant risks when moving carriers, including surveillance, treatment, and compliance with carrier-specific regulations.

[Download here](#)

Protect your business, clients, and Queensland's environment by learning how to safely manage fire ants and the materials that may carry them.

Who Should Take This Training?

- **Workplaces Course:** Groundskeepers, gardeners, maintenance staff, businesses, contractors, suppliers, landscapers, and community groups.
- **Primary Producers Course:** Growers, nurseries, turf suppliers, large landholders, and primary producers.

What You'll Learn:

- How to identify and report fire ants
- Safe handling of soil, hay, mulch, manure, quarry materials, turf, and potted plants
- Biosecurity obligations and movement restrictions
- Best practices for workplaces, landscapers, and growers

Course Details:

- **Cost:** Free
- **Availability:** Online 24/7
- **Time Requirement:**
 - Workplaces Course: 30–45 minutes
 - Primary Producers Course: 20–30 minutes
- **Certificate:** Awarded upon completion of a short multiple-choice assessment for both courses

Start Courses