

Dealing with Fire Ants

Some feeds stores sell dried molasses. It does not kill fire ants, but they do not like it. They will move away from where it is scattered or applied. Blackstrap molasses is high in calcium, magnesium, iron and potassium. It also contains sulfur and a host of micronutrients. Using molasses as fertilizer provides plants with a quick source of energy and encourages the growth of beneficial microorganisms. It can be ordered in 50-pound bags. Although I do not live in an area which gets fire ants, I keep it in a big metal trash can around at all times for use as fertilizer in the garden. One of the advantages of living so far up north. The fire ants cannot handle the cold. If you have these annoying ants here is a homemade formula to use with them.

Fire Ant Formula

Ingredients

- 2 oz of orange oil
- 1 oz of either dry or liquid molasses
- 1 oz of apple cider vinegar
- 1-gallon of water

Treat the site with beneficial nematodes. These are living organisms, and must be used before the date deadline on the package.

Go organic and use the entire basic program. The biodiversity of microbes, insects, and other animals is the best long-term control.

Liquid Fire Ant Control

Mix one-part compost tea, one part of molasses, and one part of orange oil. Mix at 4-6 ounces of the concentrate per gallon of water for treating fire ant mounds.

Spread fire ant poison in a large circle around but away from your garden beds.