

## Quarantine checklist.

- Inspect nursery and holding areas for IFA, and implement proper IFA control procedures as needed.
- Determine the end destination of plant shipments. Nursery shipping tags with Federal shields should be attached to each shipment leaving the state.
- Review and initiate a new compliance agreement each year. Keep this on file to avoid unwanted delays of shipments.
- Apply and document the appropriate regulatory chemical treatments on all stock leaving the IFA quarantine area.
- Pay special attention to plants that may have been purchased for resale.
- Review the protocol for “Bulk Density Determinations” of potting media and submit a media sample to determine the proper chemical treatment.
- Shippers should be aware that random IFA inspections of regulated articles are conducted by USDA and other states’ regulatory agencies.

**All of South Carolina is quarantined for Imported Fire Ants.** If you are moving regulated articles such as nursery stock, hay, soil, contaminated equipment, or any other means of conveyance out of the quarantine zone, please contact the Department of Plant Industry for information concerning current federal and state regulations.

## Who we are. What we do.

The Department of Plant Industry, a part of Regulatory Services in Clemson University’s Public Service and Agriculture, helps prevent the introduction of new plant pests into South Carolina as well as the spread of existing plant pests to non-infested areas.

Plant pest surveys, inspections, quarantines, control and eradication programs are among the tools used to safeguard the state’s agricultural and natural resources.

We help horticultural businesses - such as nurseries, greenhouse growers, transplant growers and turf grass producers - as well as farmers, agricultural industries and South Carolina consumers in shipping plant material intrastate, interstate and internationally.

Inspections and certification services help ensure that plants are pest-free, which is essential for movement of plant material to other states and foreign countries.

### Department of Plant Industry

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## Red Imported Fire Ant



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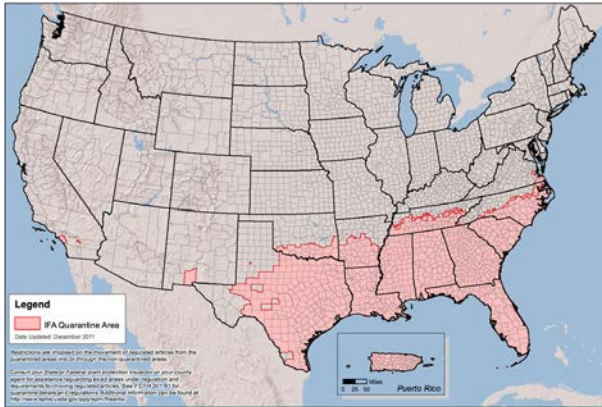
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## Imported in soil.

Why is it called the red *imported* fire ant? *Solenopsis invicta* is not a native ant to North America. These South American ants were first introduced into the U.S. in the 1930s through the port of Mobile, AL. Once in Mobile, they spread outward and now occupy most of the warmer regions of the U.S.

To limit the spread of fire ants, the movement of articles such as soil, hay, nursery stock and contaminated equipment are regulated. Take care to ensure that you are following the law and not endangering ecosystems outside of the quarantine zone.



## Quarantine zone.

Red imported fire ants have invaded thirteen states. The areas shown in red on the map below are currently under **quarantine** federally by the USDA and by South Carolina's regulatory authority, the Department of Plant Industry. The export of certain items that may carry ant infestations is regulated to prevent the spread of fire ants to areas outside the quarantine zone.

Red imported fire ant (RIFA or IFA) stings pose a health threat and can disrupt human activities. IFA are dominant in the landscape, outcompeting and preying on native insects and beneficials. The stinging pest is known to reduce populations of ground-nesting birds and rodents. Fire ants can also significantly reduce crop yields due to feeding on new growth and interfering with harvests.



## Regulated articles.

Queens and reproducing colonies of **fire ants**

Soil, except potting soil shipped in original containers in which the soil was placed after commercial preparations

Baled hay and baled straw stored in direct contact with the ground

Plants and sod with **roots and soil attached**, excluding indoor plants that are not for sale



Used **soil-moving equipment**, unless removed of all non-compacted soil

**Any other article** or means of conveyance that an inspector deems a risk, or is managed in a way that poses a threat of spreading IFA

## Important quarantine terms.

**Certificate:** A document issued by an inspector to allow the movement of regulated articles to any destination.

**Compliance Agreement:** A written agreement in which persons engaged in growing, trading, or moving regulated articles agree to comply with specific conditions set by DPI to prevent the spreading of IFA.

**Exemptions:** Modifications in conditions for movement of regulated articles from quarantined areas.

**Infestation:** The presence of IFA or the existence of circumstances that make it reasonable to believe that IFA is present.

**Inspector:** Any DPI employee who is authorized to enforce the provisions of the quarantine.

**Mechanized Soil-Moving Equipment:** Large equipment used to move or transport soil (ie. draglines, bulldozers, road scrapers and dump trucks).

**Permit:** A document issued by an inspector to allow the movement of non-certified regulated articles to a specified destination for particular handling, utilization, processing or treatment.

**Pest:** The imported fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta* and *Solenopsis richteri*) in any stage of development.

**Regulated Area:** All counties in South Carolina are inside the IFA Quarantine Zone.

**Soil:** Considered as the part of the upper layer of the earth in which plants are able to grow.