FLYING ANT FACT SHEET

This fact sheet is intended for the Northeastern United States and is not intended for other portions of the country or world.

KEY POINTS
- Flying Ants are often confused with Termite Swarers (see identification of ants vs. termites below)
- Flying ants can swarms can be very large (hundreds of thousands of ants) and are difficult to stop once the swarming activity has begun
- Typically flying ants do not persist for more than a few hours to a few days
- Eliminating flying ant activity may not be possible. Management efforts are focused preventing future swarms
- Citronella or Large Yellow Ants may require specialized techniques that require consulting a technical specialist

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT ANTS
Flying ants simply represent the reproductive caste of ants (males & queens) within an ant colony. The purpose of the is to allow the ants to distribute over larger distances after they have mated. This is similar to how seeds from a plant are distributed by the wind (i.e. dandelion seeds). Ants can swarm in extremely large numbers and thus are very upsetting to many people but these ants are typically nothing more than a nuisance.

When it is time for a colony to swarm there is little that can be done to stop it from occurring. An analogy would be to compare the release of winged ants from a colony to a volcano that is erupting. However, swarming events are usually short lived and may be over within as little as a few hours. In some cases the ants may swarm in bursts over a period of a few days.

**ANT**
- Front Wings larger than hind wings
- Wings attached to most individuals

**TERMITES**
- All four wings equal in length
- Wings shed from many individuals

**BODY**
- Three distinct body segments (head thorax & abdomen)
- Appears to only have two body segments (head & broadly joined thorax/abdomen)

**ANTENNAE**
- Antennae are elbow shaped
- Antennae are straight & look like a string of beads

WHAT COOPER PEST SOLUTIONS CAN DO FOR YOU
Chemical applications are typically not very effective at reducing flying ant activity. Flying ants have very little contact with treated surfaces and will not consume baits. As a result, in most cases, flying ant swarms simply need to run their course.

The real key to controlling flying ants, is not to focus on the actual ants that you are seeing but instead to work on eliminating or managing the colony that they are originating from in order to reduce or prevent future swarms. If the colony is eliminated or significantly reduced then the reproductive caste (flying ants) will either be greatly reduced or not be produced at all. Typical ant management strategies will be effective for most ants however, large yellow ants, commonly referred to as citronella ants, may require extensive, specialized services that will require the involvement of a technical specialist.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM TREATMENTS
Although it can be very upsetting to see Flying Ants, there is very little that can be done to stop the swarming activity. If initial attempts to stop flying ants have failed, it is unlikely that additional attempts will be successful either. Our management efforts are geared to reduce or eliminate the colony that the ants are originating from so that swarms are less likely in future years.