

URBAN TREE PESTS IN LOUISIANA

Formosan Subterranean Termite

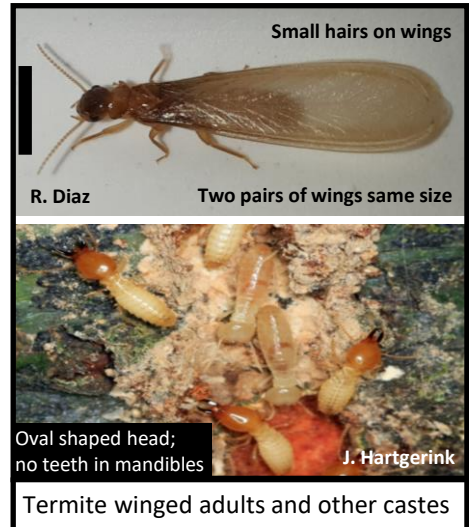


PEST IDENTIFICATION

- Scientific name: *Coptotermes formosanus*
- Origin: Taiwan and China
- Social insect: Workers, soldiers and reproductives
- > 12 mm in size (bigger than native termites)
- Large colonies (millions) and foraging range (>1500 ft²)
- Winged adults form swarms during warm humid evenings for mating and establishing new colonies
- Large numbers are found flying close to streetlights
- >\$1 billion per year of estimated losses for repairs

ACTIVE

April
May
June
July



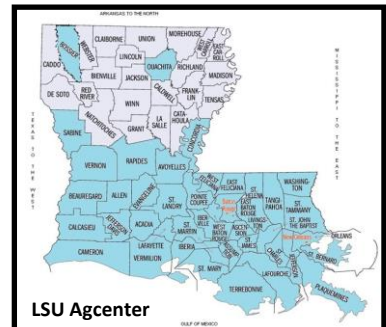
DESCRIPTION OF DAMAGE



Termites mud trail in water oak (left); hollowed tree ideal for colony (right)

- Colonies are found in the soil, hollowed trees, or structures
- Feed on wood materials or can damage others (plastic, metal)
- Attack >40 tree species
- Colonization, infestation and feeding reduce tree health
- Colonies established in trees can damage nearby structures

STATE DISTRIBUTION



Reported in 11 states in SE USA including Louisiana (see blue)



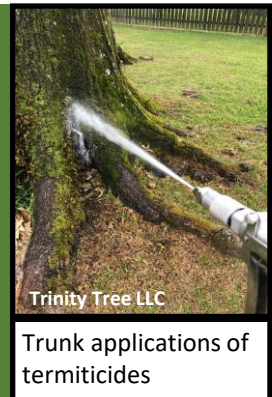
MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Prevention:

- Landscape: mulch/trees >3 ft from house, avoid excessive irrigation
- House: Avoid wet wood structures (e.g. water leaks), treat slabs
- Follow building codes: Wood pressure-treated with preservatives
- Visual inspections of trees/structures for signs of termites

Treatments: (follow label for rates, timing, safety)

- Inject into tree cavity insecticidal foam: Termidor®, Spectracide®
- Treat trunk or soil barrier with termiticides: Taurus®, Tengard®, Phantom®
- Use baits such as Sentricon® System (disrupt molting) around structures



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