

larly destructive to large trees, they can cause young trees to die by defoliating each flush of growth as it appears.

The fire ant, *Solenopsis geminata* (Fab.), is a small, pale yellowish or reddish ant that also can be destructive to young trees and top-worked trees. They feed on the leaves and young twigs, causing them to die.

Another small, light reddish ant, *Dorymyrmex pyramicus* var. *flavus* McCook, is commonly found on citrus trees, especially when honeydew is present.

A small black ant will also feed on the bark of top-worked and small nursery trees.

A fourth species, *Camponotus abdominalis floridanus* (Buckley), is a large reddish insect which is commonly called a "bull ant." These are often found at the base of the tree, especially when there is a rotten area, and seem to live between the roots. They probably do no harm and may even be beneficial by removing dead and decaying wood.

All species mentioned here are readily controlled with insecticides. Sprays or dusts may be applied to the tree or to the ant hills. Periodic retreatment is necessary, but ants can be satisfactorily controlled if the owner feels it is important.

On occasion the little fire ant, *Wasmannia auropunctata* (Roger), may be a severe pest, particularly along the east coast. This insect does no damage to the tree, but its bite is so severe that the presence of these ants may prevent grove labor from working in, or near, the trees. This problem is encountered in picking and pruning operations. The ant is small and red, with a bite that leaves no doubt as to its identity. Large colonies of these ants may be observed on almost every tree in a grove and they must be destroyed if normal grove operations are to be maintained. Osborn (37, 38) has shown that the little fire ant may be controlled with insecticides. See Spray and Dust Schedule of Better Fruit Program for further details.

BEETLES

Members of the order Coleoptera occasionally damage citrus but generally are of little economic importance.

WEEVILS

The weevil-like beetles are the major coleopterous pests of citrus in Florida. Injuries caused by the several species are quite similar.