

Making foraging fatal

Irmo, S.C. pest management firm eliminates ant trails with Maxforce Fleet and Maxforce Quantum by Bayer

Odoriferous house ants (*Tapinoma sessile*), or OHA, are as nasty as their name sounds. They're attracted to kitchens and can contaminate the food inside. Step on them, and they produce a rotten smell.

Alan Wilson is well familiar with OHA. About two years ago, he was hired to quash a heavy infestation of them in one home. For the job, he added a relatively new product, Maxforce Fleet by Bayer,



to his arsenal. "The ants hit it immediately," says Wilson, technical director and entomologist at Clark's Termite & Pest Control in Irmo, S.C. "They were very attracted to Maxforce Fleet, and the response was quick. Within a couple of days, the ant population in the house was greatly reduced."

Maxforce Fleet is a fipronil-based gel that Wilson was able to place on the home's foundation walls and other vertical surfaces without worrying about it running. He also applied the weather-resistant product to trees and foraging trails outside.

Maxforce Fleet is labeled for several hard-to-control species, including Argentine, carpenter, acrobat, big-headed, cornfield, field honey, pavement, pharaoh and thief ants. It's formulated so that foraging ants take the product back to the colony and transfer it to other ants as they share regurgitated liquids.

MAXFORCE QUANTUM, TOO

Wilson also likes another Bayer product, Maxforce Quantum, a liquid gel he puts inside bait stations. It's clear and odorless, and retains moisture for up to three months, thus maintaining its attractiveness to ants.

Wilson says Bayer recently adjusted Maxforce Quantum's label so that now it can be diluted to produce a larger volume for his bait stations. He uses the product against Argentine ants

(*Linepithema humile*) in particular. Like Maxforce Fleet, Maxforce Quantum is carried by foraging ants back to the colony.

"That's a big part of ant control, getting the product back to the queen and larvae," Wilson says.

Maxforce Quantum works against many of the same ants as Maxforce Fleet, as well as black garden, crazy, ghost, little black, rover and white-footed ants.

A few years ago, Wilson was asked to stop a trail of OHA outside a kitchen. He placed bait stations containing

Maxforce Quantum along the trail, and within a day he saw dead ants in and around the stations. It was one of the faster responses he's experienced over the years, he says.

"Both Maxforce Fleet and Maxforce Quantum are very effective for us on trailing ants, species like the Argentine and OHA," Wilson adds. "And you can put the bait stations both inside and outside."

Wilson says he uses Maxforce Fleet if ant trails are on vertical surfaces. But if the infestation is heavy, he distributes Maxforce Quantum in bait stations because he can make more of the liquid gel available to the ants.

Wilson points out that Maxforce products are reliable weapons in his integrated pest management (IPM) program. And Bayer provides all the technical support and expertise he needs.

"Bayer is always interacting with customers," Wilson says. "They continuously ask for feedback."



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