



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
West Hawaii Master Gardeners Assoc.
United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating

Sugar Boric Acid Bait for Ants*

For white-footed ants and other sugar-eating ant species. May not be completely effective for some ant species (pharaoh ants, carpenter ants, big-headed ants, Mexican ants) as their food preferences may change throughout the year. Proper identification is essential for proper control.

Recipe

1. Place into 2-cup liquid measuring cup:
1 teaspoon boric acid powder
3 Tablespoons white table sugar
2. Fill to 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup line with warm distilled or bottled water; do not use tap water.
3. Stir to dissolve completely.

Directions for use:

Pour mixture into small (condiment type) containers, along with an absorbent material (cotton, etc.) Place filled containers in areas of current ant activity. Check on a weekly basis and replace or refresh stations as necessary. Moldy or fouled baits should be replaced with fresh ones. Allow ants to feed in the stations for up to one or even two months.

Important notes:

1. Bait acceptance is better if you do not immediately disturb the ants during the initial phase of baiting; i.e., don't remove the primary food source (possibly your food) until they have started feeding on the bait material.
2. Do not under any circumstances use any household insecticides on any ants around the area where you are baiting. This will disturb the ants, and they may discontinue feeding on the bait, so that you will miss your chance!

*Caution: Boric acid should not be applied where it will fall into food or onto food preparation areas. Keep solution secure from children or pets.