

ASK THE NISUS EXPERTS

This month's expert: Research and Development Scientist **JANET KINTZ-EARLY, Ph.D.**, Entomologist, on Ants

1. Does NiBan® work on carpenter ants? What should my strategy be?

We've received great reports of NiBan's activity on carpenter ants and other ants from independent researchers, and this is also strongly supported by pest management professionals in the field. Those with good success typically use NiBan G (granular) as a perimeter treatment. It comes in a 40-lb. bag for use with a hand spreader or in a convenient 5-lb. shaker bag that lets you shake the granules out of the bottom, then reseal for later use. As an added bonus, a NiBan application will also be effective against roaches, crickets and silverfish.

2. We're the second firm called to an odorous house ant account. We want to do the job right for this new client. What's our best strategy?

As with any pest problem, I'd recommend you start with the basics: Understand why the pest is there and you can figure out where to put the bait. For starters, check for the obvious conditions that are conducive to ants, such as:

- ▶ **Easy entry** - Check that windows and other areas are caulked and sealed.
- ▶ **Moisture** - Air conditioners, piping, construction leaks and other conditions may allow water to accumulate within or near the structure.
- ▶ **Landscape** - Are there shrubs and plants or mulches that encourage these ants to find entry or provide an alternate food source such as honeydew?
- ▶ **Homeowner** - Does the homeowner maintain sanitation and the property in good repair, or is this a problem?

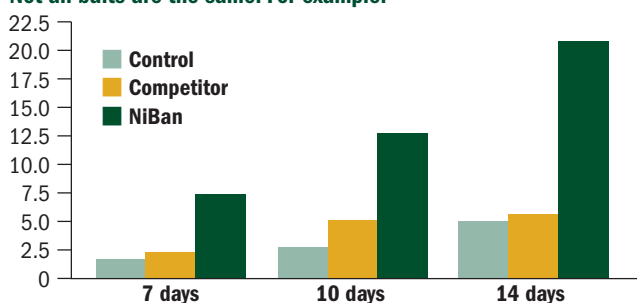
- ▶ **Bait placement** - If baits have been used, are they in the most likely places that ants will find? You must make sure ants pick up the bait for it to work. Broadcast applications around the perimeter generally give ants more opportunities to find the bait.

3. I'm not sure which ant bait to use. Most seem to be the same.

Don't think that all baits are equal, because they're quite different. They have different percentages of active ingredients in them, they use different attractants, and they have different performance characteristics. In fact, one independent, head-to-head study of NiBan and a competitive borate bait's action on a number of ant species showed much

higher mortality levels with NiBan, plus little statistical difference in the action of the competitive product and water. You can see the results in this chart.

Not all baits are the same. For example:



Ants were provided either 1 gram of NiBan, 1 gram of a competitor's bait or water only (control). Dead ants were removed and counted throughout a 14-day study conducted by Dr. Reed Kirkland at Bioresearch in Fresno, CA, to determine ant mortality. Similar results were obtained in bait attractiveness comparisons.

4. What are my options indoors?

Both NiBan-G and NiBan®-FG may be used indoors. NiBan-FG is a fine granular formulation for crack and crevice treatments against ants, cockroaches, crickets and silverfish. You can dust it, or use the Snuffer®, a small application tool for application into wall voids and tight areas.

During drought conditions or for sweet-loving ants, you might supplement the dry NiBan formulations with Terro® liquid bait. Terro attracts ants looking for water or food with a high sugar content. It is available in three sizes: ready-to-use clear bait stations, 16-ounce bottles and 1-gallon bottles. The clear bait stations are great because they offer the customer (and the ants!) instant gratification when they see the ants feeding on the bait. The 16-ounce bottles and 1-gallon bottles may be diluted from 5.4% down to 1% or 2% solutions, and may be placed outdoors in existing liquid bait stations.

By using a combination of NiBan-G, and NiBan-FG granular baits and Terro liquid bait, you will attract ants with a variety of food preferences and provide them with multiple ways to find the baits. Using our baits as part of a multi-pronged approach to ant management will result in less callbacks and a happy customer.

Do you have a baiting question for the Nisus Experts?

You can send it three ways:

Email us at nisus@pestcontrolmag.com,

Fax it to **Nisus at Pest Control, 440-891-2675**, or

Mail it to **Nisus at Pest Control, 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130**.



Nisus Expert Dr. Janet Kintz-Early is a Research and Development Scientist at Nisus Corporation with a B.S. in Biology from Ursinus College and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Entomology from Clemson University. She is active in both the Entomological Society of America and Pi Chi Omega.