

ASK THE NISUS EXPERTS

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

1. What is Terro®-PCO?

What's the most effective way to use it?

Terro-PCO is a borate liquid ant bait that comes in ready-to-use, disposable individual bait stations and in 16-oz. and 1-gallon bottles. The individual bait stations are convenient because they come in strips of seven. All you do is rip off one station from the strip, snip the orange section at the bottom and place it wherever you see ants. The clear plastic disposable station has a little ramp for the ants to walk up and a platform to stand on as they help themselves to a liquid meal. Because the station is clear, it is easy to see that the bait is working or if bait has been depleted.

The bottles contain a concentrate that may be diluted and placed in existing liquid bait stations. This means you get more for your money; plus, it acts a little more slowly, giving the ants more time to share the bait amongst themselves before killing them.

Terro-PCO is ideal for ants looking for a quick, easy meal. It's packed with proprietary attractants that ants just love. And because it's a liquid, it's attractive even when they are deprived of water. The individual disposable bait stations may be placed indoors or out.

They should be placed wherever you see ants, but out of the reach of children and pets, and not on food preparation surfaces. They should be monitored regularly and replaced once depleted. Because Terro-PCO is so attractive to ants, this can happen quite quickly. When trying to manage large ant colonies, I recommend a 1% or 2% dilution for outdoor liquid bait stations and positioning the stations where the ants are foraging or gaining access to the structure.

2. How is Terro-PCO different from NiBan®?

Terro-PCO does not need to be used exclusively; it actually compliments NiBan

well. Aside from the obvious differences (one is a granular bait and one is a liquid bait), NiBan contains 5% boric acid (BAE) and Terro-PCO contains 5.4% borax (3.6% BAE). NiBan may be applied as a broadcast treatment, while Terro-PCO should be used in liquid bait stations where and when you see ants. Because it is a liquid, the bait begins to work on ants immediately. NiBan acts more slowly because it has to be fed to the larvae.

3. Do you have any specific recommendations for certain ant species or conditions?

Terro-PCO is especially effective in dry conditions when ants are looking for water and a lot of carbohydrates. At some point, all ants will look for carbs to round out their diet. Ant species that really like Terro-PCO year-round include Argentine ants, ghost ants, cornfield ants, pavement ants, acrobat ants, white-footed ants, little black ants, odorous house ants, crazy ants and big-headed ants.

4. What else can be done to make bait more effective?

First, remove competing food sources whenever possible so the ants will encounter and eat more of the bait. Also, maintaining the structure is important, so repair moisture-conductive conditions, exclude ants from gaining access into the structure by sealing cracks and crevices, and trim foliage so it doesn't touch the structure. Terro-PCO should be used both indoors and outdoors as part of an IPM program to reduce ant infestations. The individual bait station is small, so it can easily be placed inconspicuously where ants are seen.

5. What's the best way to manage Terro-PCO for efficiency?

Terro-PCO can be very cost-effective because it can be diluted. Monitoring outdoor and individual disposable bait stations regularly is important because you don't want the ants to run out of food and go back into the structure or find a competing food source. Also, large ant colonies need more bait than small ones, so knowing what species you are trying to manage and their biology will help to determine how often you need to return to refill or replace the stations.



Just snip the end of a Terro-PCO bait station and place judiciously.



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.

Do you have a question on liquid ant baiting 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.**