Urban Pest Management of Ants in California

Ants are among the most prevalent pests in urban areas. They invade houses, restaurants, hospitals, offices, warehouses — anywhere they can find food and water. Once established, colonies are difficult to control and present a formidable challenge.

Responding to the public’s growing demand for less toxic, environmentally friendly pest-control techniques and increasing regulatory control of pesticides, UC experts have written a new guide to aid pest control professionals in developing more effective, targeted and greener solutions to urban ant problems. Illustrated with 77 color photographs, the guide covers status, identification, biology and management strategies for the four major urban ant species as well as 16 frequently encountered species.

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California olive industry takes root

The California olive revival of the past 15 years has seen a quiescent industry come dramatically to life. By fall 2008, an estimated 19,570 acres of olives were planted, tripling from 3 years prior. Another 10,000 acres were planned in 2009, and the production of premium olive oil was predicted to triple in the next 3 years from 400,000 to 1.2 million gallons. In the next issue of California Agriculture journal, researchers review the role of a new, scientifically selected and trained sensory-evaluation panel in raising the quality of the state’s olive oil; examine the potential for super-high-density olive culture and new European cultivars in California; and present research on control of olive fruit fly, a primary pest of this crop.