

Gelatinous Bait for Argentine Ants

Instructions for making gelatinous bait for Argentine Ants



Materials

Bait Supplies

1. Table sugar
2. Boric Acid (technical grade)
3. Polyacrylamide water storing crystals, 2-4mm; *Soil Moist, JRM Chemical*
4. Water

Supplies for measuring and mixing:

1. Macrobin(s) with lid
2. Drill with stirrer attachment or similar tool
3. Bucket to measure sugar and water
4. Smaller container to measure crystals
5. Scale and container to measure toxicant
6. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
7. Labels to attach to macrobin indicating contents (boric acid)

Prepare the Bait

Use this table to calculate component amounts.

Finished Volume	Water	Sugar	100% Boric acid	Polyacrylamide crystals	Target a.i. concentration
150 gal (568 L)	135 gal (511 L)	284 lb (142 L)	2840 g	8750 ml (7590 g)	0.5%
12 gal (45.4 L)	10.8 gal (40.8 L)	22.8 lb (11.4 L)	227 g	700 ml (600 g)	
2 gal (7.6 L)	1.8 gal (6.8L)	3.8 lb (1.9 L)	38 g	115 ml (99 g)	

Bait Mixing Instructions

Add 1/3 of total water to a macrobin

Add sugar to water in macrobin, **while stirring** constantly, a trolling motor may be used to stir the sugar.



Add remaining water once sugar is dissolved

Put on PPE

Measure boric acid

Add boric acid to small container with water



Stir until boric acid dissolves

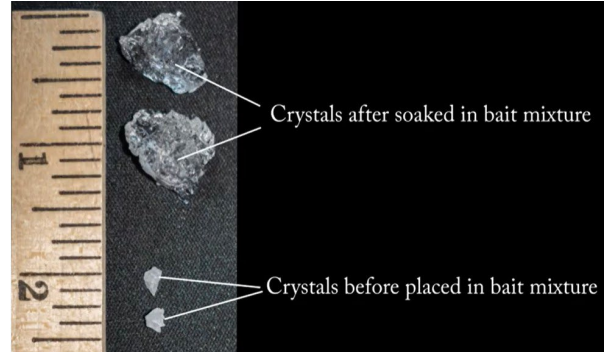
Add boric acid to macrobin and mix thoroughly

Measure the polyacrylamide crystals

Add crystals to macrobin

Cover macrobin and affix appropriate labels indicating pesticide

Wait 12 hours (or overnight) for water-storing crystals to expand and absorb bait mixture



Crystals should be fully expanded but not floating in excess liquid

Apply Bait

Attach spreader to ATV or tractor for broadcast application. Calibrate spreader to apply 10 gallons of hydrated crystals in alternate rows to target foraging ants. Plan to make 2 applications, at 4 to 6-week intervals in spring.



Additional Resources

Mealybug and vineyard ant identification, detection, and monitoring: <https://ucceviticulturenapa.wixsite.com/uccevitnapa>

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Educational video:
“Mixing Gelatinous Bait Targeting Argentine Ants in Vineyards”



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mg9cN6F2Gb0>