

Help us help you

Our staff are checking residential properties, public areas, high risk businesses and schools using a variety of surveillance methods including food lures and odour detection dogs.

Call us now on 13 25 23

- to book your free yard check
- to report suspect electric ants
- to report illegal dumping
- to check if you live in the electric ant biosecurity zone
- to check what movement controls are in place on your property

For more information visit

daf.qld.gov.au/anthunt

Join the ant hunt

The search is on for
electric ants



Book your free
yard check today.

13 25 23
daf.qld.gov.au/anthunt





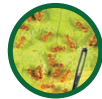
Electric ants are one of the world's worst invasive species and have the potential to impact our outdoor lifestyle, our unique environment and profitable industries. They are also known to affect human health, blind domestic pets, and displace our native wildlife.

We are working to find them all, but we need your help. Call us to book your free yard check. The successful eradication of electric ants in Far North Queensland depends on it.

How to identify electric ants

Size and colour

Tiny (1 – 1.5 mm) and golden brown



Actual size

Characteristics

Electric ants are slow moving, but they can inflict an itchy and painful sting, causing anaphylaxis or secondary infections, and can also blind pets.

Habits

Electric ants don't make visible nests and will nest in, on, or under almost anything in the garden, including pot plants, rocks, sleepers, trees and shrubs.

Infestation spread

Electric ants are predominantly spread by people through the swapping of pot plants and other plant material and the dumping of green waste. Electric ants can be moved in soil, or anything that has soil attached such as plant cuttings, green waste, garden furniture and equipment.

Your general biosecurity obligation

You may not be aware you could be spreading electric ants, and the risk this poses to Far North Queensland. Under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, electric ants are category 1 restricted matter. If you deal with electric ant carriers, and ought to know about electric ants, you have a general biosecurity obligation to ensure they are not spread.

This means:

- you should know if you live or work in the electric ant biosecurity zone and know what movement controls apply by checking the zone maps at daf.qld.gov.au/anthunt
- know what electric ants look like
- know what electric ant carriers are
- take any unwanted electric ant carriers to an approved waste facility
- report suspect ants to **13 25 23**.

Electric ant sting

Electric ants can inflict a painful, long lasting, venomous sting. The reaction from their sting can range from moderate to severe pain, with no visual symptoms to raised red bumps with blisters.

If you are stung by an electric ant:

- apply a cold compress to relieve swelling and pain
- gently wash the affected area with soap and water ensuring to leave the blister intact (if one forms)
- seek immediate medical attention, particularly if you are experiencing an allergic reaction.