

## **Invasive Species Alert**

**Common Name:** Argentine ant

**Scientific Name:** *Linepithema humile*



Photo Credit: Stanford University

**Argentine ants are currently in Rocky Creek Park.  
Make sure you don't transport them out.**

Argentine ants re-colonize by hitchhiking in potted plants, camping equipment, wheel wells, boats and many other places. Once established they are very difficult to control. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension & Research Service is assisting Somerville Lake in determining effective control methods. Colonies consist of hundreds of queens and millions of workers that may cover hundreds of acres. The ant "farms" harmful insects such as aphids making plants susceptible to disease. This species competes with native insects for food and habitat and may displace native species and natural predators.

### **Precautions Include:**

Treat around anything touching the ground such as supports and tires to prevent Argentine ants from entering equipment. Some campers have had success treating around supports with a general repellent insecticide or products such as diatomaceous earth. Treating around hoses and electric cords with petroleum jelly may also deter ants from entering the trailer.

**Don't poison the environment or non-target species. Read the product label. Some products are not designed to act quickly or repel and will not prevent ants from entering your trailer. These products will not have an impact on your stay or on an individual campsite. Bait products are designed to attract rather than repel target pests from your campsite. Improper use of baits can cause poisoning of non-target animals. Look for environmentally friendly products.** Conduct a careful inspection of your equipment before leaving the park to ensure you don't take any with you.