

**Common Name:** Argentine Ant  
**Scientific Name:** *Linepithema humile*

When camping in Rocky Creek Park you may notice green ant bait stations placed on top of U-channel post. Please do not disturb the bait stations. Disturbance will cause ants to stop feeding on the bait. You may obtain a Material Safety Data Sheet [MSDS] and label at the gate house located at the park entrance.

Argentine ants colonize by hitch-hiking in potted plants, camping equipment, wheel wells and many other places. Inspect all equipment before leaving the park to ensure you don't take ants with you to your home or a new camping destination. The social structure of introduced populations of Argentine ants causes them to form fast growing, high density colonies known as "super colonies". These colonies extend for miles and encompass several hundred contiguous acres.

Prevent ants from entering your trailer or vehicle by treating supports, tires and anything touching the ground. The following suggestions may help in keeping ants from entering your trailer:

- Treat hoses and cords at entry points with petroleum jelly. Keep hoses and cords off the ground. Ensure trees and shrubs are not touching equipment.
- The following items have been suggested for treating around supports, tires, etc.: Comet; Ajax; 20 Mule Team Borax; cinnamon; black ground pepper; cayenne pepper; Baby Talc - Magnesium silicate; White vinegar (using a squirt bottle); Windex and ivory soap (mix equal parts and use in squirt bottle). **Note:** Repeated application may be necessary.
- Ensure supports, etc. are free of dead insects that may act as a food source.

### SPECIES IMPACT

**Human:** Argentine ants are an extreme nuisance in homes. "Highways" of ants have been known to invade refrigerators, microwaves and food in sealed containers. People have awakened to find ants crawling in bedding. Meticulous housekeeping does not keep them from invading.

**Environment:** The Species displaces native ant species disrupting native ecosystems; 'farm' homopterous insects (aphids, scale, etc.) making plants susceptible to weakness/disease; destroys insect predators of aphids, scales and other homopterous insects; kill juvenile birds in the nest; destroy bee hives; compete strongly with other species including insects and birds; out compete native insects for food/habitat and consume or displace natural predators such as lizards, snakes, and spiders.

