

General Information

Imported fire ants (IFA) are notorious hitchhikers and are readily transported long distances when articles such as soil, nursery stock, and other items are shipped outside the infested area. Provisions of the Federal Imported Fire Ant Quarantine (Title 7, *Code of Federal Regulations* [CFR], part 301.81) were invoked May 6, 1958, in an effort to slow or prevent the artificial spread of IFA (*Solenopsis invicta* Buren, *S. richteri* Forel, or their hybrids). Figure 1 depicts the parts of the United States quarantined for IFA as of December 2011.

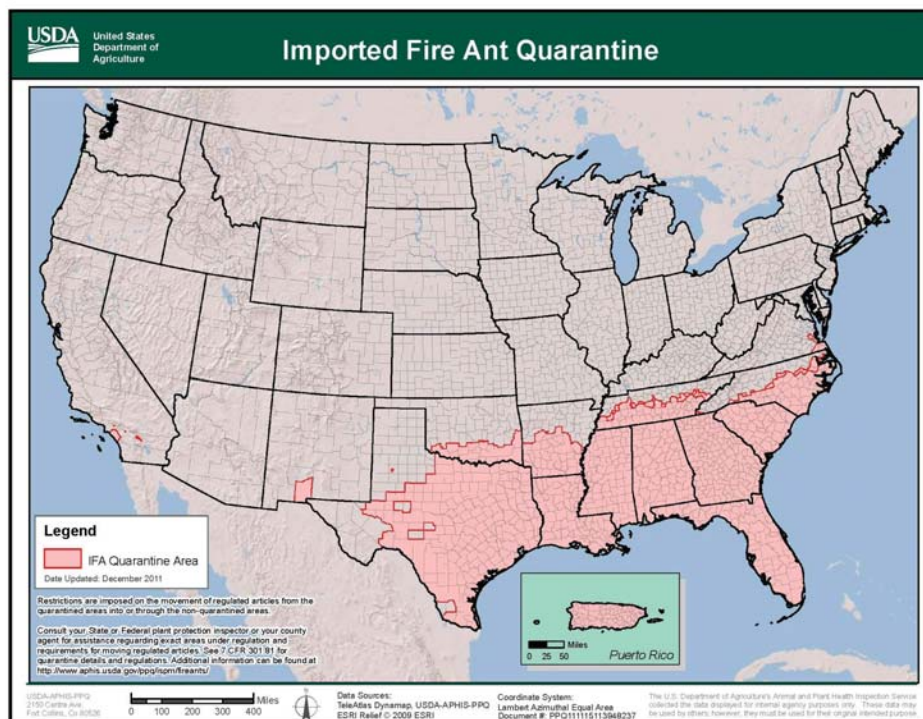


Figure 1. Imported Fire Ant Quarantine map, December 2011.

This document offers a handy reference of treatment options for shipping regulated articles, such as nursery stock, from within the IFA quarantine area to a destination outside the IFA quarantine area (such as shipping from Louisiana to Illinois or Colorado). This includes shipments passing through non-quarantine areas, even if destined for another IFA quarantine area (such as shipping from Florida to Orange County, CA). If you are shipping nursery stock or another regulated article within the IFA quarantine area (such as from Georgia to Louisiana), you do NOT have to follow these Federal requirements, but you must check for any State regulations regarding other plant and soil pests.

The electronic APHIS-Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Treatment Manual is updated more frequently than this printed document. In order to have the most recent information regarding treatments, please routinely check the online PPQ Treatment Manual located at:
www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/ports/downloads/treatment.pdf.
Go to “Domestic Treatments” in the bookmarks section, then to “Imported Fire Ant (D301-81-10)”.

The most recent IFA quarantine map is located at:
www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/fireants/downloads/fireant.pdf.

To determine whether you are in a quarantine area by your zip code, visit USDA’s Web site at:
www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/fireants/zipcode.shtml and click the “check your zip code now” link.

The State plant regulatory officials/inspectors are your first line of communication regarding the Federal IFA Quarantine. See page 18 for a complete listing of State plant regulatory officials and USDA State Plant Health Directors in States regulated for IFA or go to:

State plant regulatory officials: www.nationalplantboard.org/member/index.html

USDA State Plant Health Directors: www.aphis.usda.gov/services/report_pest_disease/report_pest_disease.shtml