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Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation Review: Red Imported Fire Ant Scientific Principles and Controls

Summary of recommendations for consideration

Materials that may carry fire ants	Current fire ant movement controls (state and interstate requirements)	CSIRO recommendations
<p>Turf</p>	<p>Biosecurity Regulation 2016:</p> <p>Turf must receive the correct application of chemical treatment and, after it is harvested, it should be stored correctly.</p> <p>Apply two consecutive treatments seven days apart. Do not lift the turf for at least 28 days after the second application. This method provides 12 weeks of protection.</p> <p>If treated turf is not harvested, another treatment should be applied again, Seven weeks after the second treatment to maintain ongoing protection.</p> <p>Irrigate the treated area immediately after each application.</p> <p>If turf has been harvested for more than 24 hours, you must either store off-ground and covered with an effective barrier that prevents ants from penetrating the material, or, store on-ground and covered, either on concrete or bitumen with no cracks, a barrier that cannot be penetrated by fire ants (200 micron plastic sheet) or compacted ground (not sand) that has</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical treatment (bifenthrin) for turf is highly effective. • Chemical treatment is a single-point-of-control, therefore correctly applying it is critical. • Storage is not applicable for turf, due to its short shelf life. • Current reliance on only bifenthrin (chemical treatment) is a constraint (both for available options and risk of chemical resilience). Note: other chemicals for this use are being looked at for approval. • Inspection of the site and products is more effective for established nests. It is not effective for finding new or underground nests. • Inspecting consignments before despatch of release from quarantine (importing state) is not an effective strategy because it is unlikely a young, mated female fire ant will be detected and ants would have likely moved into the interior of individual turf rolls.



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National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program

been treated with an appropriate chemical product before storage.

Other:

Inspection of turf.
Property freedom.