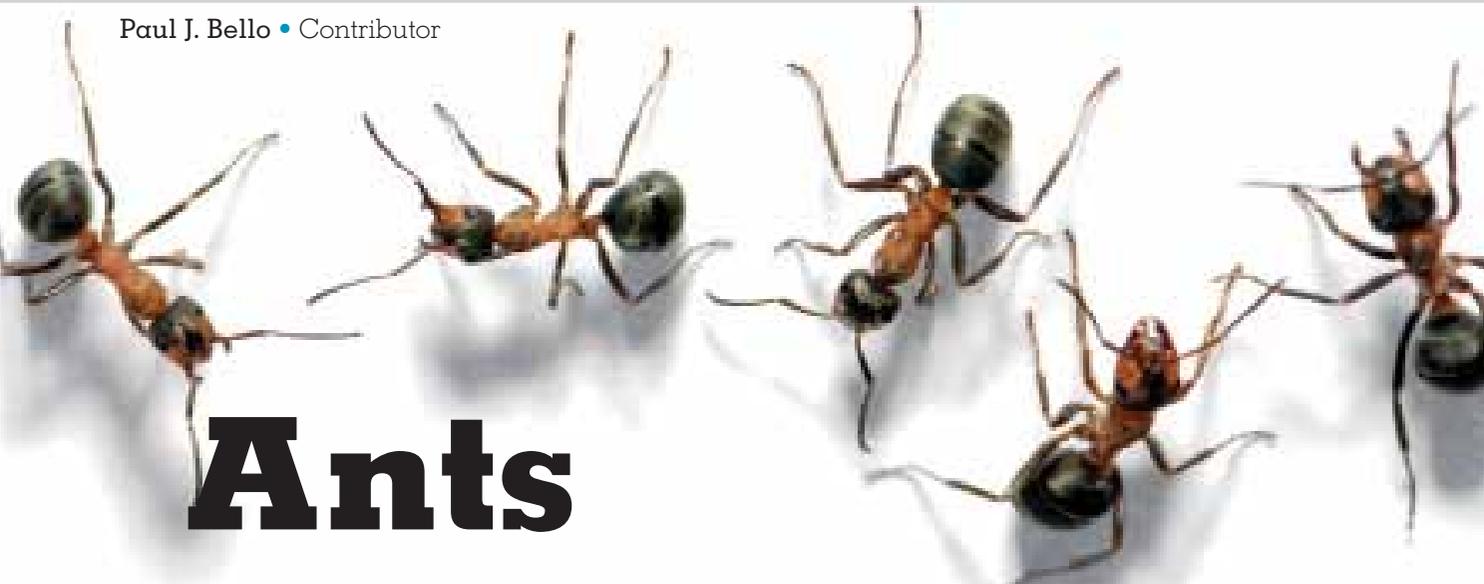


Paul J. Bello • Contributor



## Ants

**W**ith all the media coverage focusing on that *other* pest, one wonders if ants are still No. 1? Ants continue to be a commonly encountered and significantly problematic pest in most regions of the country. And while pest species might vary with geography, there seems to be ant species that thrive in and around structures in almost every region of the world, much to the delight and sometimes consternation of pest professionals. Will 2012 be the year ants reassert themselves to solidify their top pest status? We'll see soon enough. In any case, below are ant control **Dos & Don'ts** for your consideration:

### Dos

- Become familiar with the pest ant species you expect to encounter in your area of operations.
- Learn to identify the common pest ant species in your area of operations properly.
- Locate existing and potential entry points ants are using to gain entry into a customer's structure.
- Educate yourself well about the biology and behavior of the target ant species you expect to encounter in your area. Know the nesting habits, food preferences and other key characteristics about the ants.

### Don'ts

- Forget the ant species you're dealing with may be significantly different and these differences could have an impact on the effectiveness and results of your management program.
- Forget some ant species might travel great distances from their nest site to your customer's structure and these nest sites might not be located on the customer's property.
- Limit your inspection to looking down. It's not uncommon for ants to locate their nests vertically in often-overlooked areas. Even species that normally nest

in the ground might nest within a structure or on a roof.

- Forget to educate your client about ants, how your control program is designed to be cost effective and what they can do to help enhance the results of your ant management program at their home or structure. **PMP**

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*You can reach Bello at [pbelloconsulting@earthlink.net](mailto:pbelloconsulting@earthlink.net) or 770-500-0460.*