

# Pest Bio

Providing All Your Pest Facts

## Harvester Ant



Harvester Ants live for a long time and can easily live in captivity, therefore they are the most common ants found in children's' ant farms!

Harvester ants have a relatively large head that provides the powerful jaw needed to crack seeds. They clear foliage from around the entrance to the colony so that it will not be shaded and the sun can warm the colony. If their nests are disturbed harvester ants will vigorously defend the mound and are capable of very painful stings that can turn red and hurt for 4-6 hours. Their stingers are very short and can not penetrate thicker areas of skin.

**Call Barrier for help managing Harvester Ants**

**208-463-4533**

### DIET

Harvester ants primarily eat gathered seeds however they do sometimes eat other small insects and arthropods dead or alive.

### HABITAT

Harvester ants construct large visible mounds over the colony below ground. The mounds often have small pebbles from the excavations, the vegetation around the mound will be clear.

### BEHAVIOR

Winged male and female harvester ants are bred at certain times of the year and can be seen swarming above houses, trees and vehicles. They are quick to defend their colony when disturbed.

### Harvester Ant Facts:

Size: 5 - 7 mm

Shape: Long/Narrow

Color: Red or Brown

Legs: 6

Wings: Yes  
(Seasonally)

Antenna: Yes

### Scientific Name:

Kingdom:

-Animalia

Pylum:

-Arthropoda

Class:

-Insecta

Order:

-Hymenoptera

Family:

-Formicidae

Genus:

-Pogonomyrmex