

CARPENTER ANTS AND EFFICACY OF BAITING IN CONTROL

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Carpenter ants, *Camponotus* spp., are major structural pests as well as nuisance pests in the United States and southern Canada. Management tools have included cultural controls to modify habitats and foraging, dust applications to wall voids, perimeter sprays, baiting, and combinations of these approaches. Comparisons of liquid, gel and granular bait formulations were made at 87 field sites with infestations of *C. modoc* or *C. vicinus* in the Pacific Northwest. Toxicants in these tests included boric acid, avermectin, hydramethylnon, and fipronil. Parameters for assessing control included observation of foragers, homeowner observations and a final inspection in spring after the tests were completed. Efficacy of baits was investigated over five years and found to have 77% to 90% control. The results were highly variable because of differences in sites and in competition with natural foods. Granular baits were demonstrated to be effective in controlling carpenter ants in a reduced amount of time when the bait was competitive with natural foraging sources.