

Termite Control News: \$200,000 Requested for Dania, Florida

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The fight in Dania against the *Nasutitermes corniger* termite is heating up, and the Florida Department of Agriculture is requesting \$200,000 of the legislature to hire professionals. The previous effort at spraying the tree-dwelling termites has failed and the threat

is spreading. More officials are claiming that if the termites aren't contained soon, they will spread to central Florida and then it will be out of control.

The tree dwelling termites are an invasive species that normally lives in sub-tropical rain forests, and probably entered the country in shipping pallets. Most invasive pests are transported through international trade. This was never more evident than in the recent shipping of a black widow spider and her eggs that ended up in the U.K. with some machine parts. These are not the first termites to make an ocean voyage; Formosan termites are believed to have come here from Asia. The Formosan termites were once believed to be the biggest threat to homeowners where they have spread; the *Nasutitermes corniger* termite is much worse.

The Formosan termites have spread all the way from 3 states to the 11 in around 60 years; the tree dwellers would spread more quickly because they have no need of ground contact and reside in trees. These small termites can build a basketball sized nest in a tree in just a few months, with a population greater than Fort Lauderdale, Florida. There are an



estimated 120 colonies with over a million in each colony, over a hundred homes are also infested to date. Now the termites have been **discovered in a yacht in Fort Pierce**. The yacht has been in dry dock, so the termites, thought to have been eradicated by the owner, could be spreading there as well. The only hope is that the termites usually swarm after a heavy rain, time will tell.

Termite control in Arizona is of utmost importance, just as it is in Florida. Many people think that they can handle a problem themselves, just as the yacht owner in Fort Pierce did. He paid due diligence; eradicating the nests before he brought the boat into port. The problem was that he did not know there were more nests; now they have invaded everything from their nests behind the walls, including the refrigerator. To **control a termite population**, barriers must be set up to prevent them from entering the area. If every home is protected, there won't be a problem.