

To: All Household Trash Customers

Many of you are aware that our Town and the surrounding area have been invaded by fire ants. Unfortunately, the Town is not able to permanently get rid of these pests since there is no way to completely eradicate them. However, there are methods for use which can help reduce and control the fire ant population.

Town employees have noticed when picking up household trash, that many pickup locations have extreme fire ant activity in and around the trash can(s). These employees have been bitten and stung by these ants on numerous occasions over the year; and therefore, we simply **cannot** continue to pick up trash cans that are infested with fire ants. Therefore, the Town is requesting that each trash customer pay special attention to their trash and the contents of the can(s) for signs of fire ant activity on **the day before trash pickup.**

For many of these pickup locations, the problem is caused by trash can(s) sitting undisturbed next to a curb or street from week to week; therefore, creating an excellent place, under the can(s), for fire ant mound growth. In order to prevent fire ant mounds at trash pickup locations, the following preventative measures can be taken which include but not limited to:

- 1) **Once the trash has been picked up on Wednesday morning, move the can(s) from the street or curb to a location near your home that does not have fire ant activity.**
- 2) **Continuously monitor and treat the trash pickup location at the street/curb as well as the contents of the can(s).**
- 3) **Use a readily available fire ant insecticide product (such as one containing Bifenthrin) which is available at Ace Hardware and Tractor Supply. Remember - treat the inside and outside of the can(s) as well as the pickup location area at the street or curb.**

Also, as a reminder, **all trash must be bagged** and placed in trash can(s) in order to be properly emptied (no loose trash will be picked up). The Town insists that customers adhere to this policy since there are no automatic dumpers on the back of our refuse truck and this keeps refuse from scattering and littering the Town. In addition, remember that **trash cans must have lids** to prevent the collection of rainwater and any can containing rainwater cannot be emptied of trash.

The Town and its employees greatly appreciate your support and cooperation regarding this matter as this will become **effective October 1, 2018!**