

Carpenter Ant



GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST

ECO-SERVICE CARDS

CARPENTER ANT

FAMILY: Formicidae

ORDER: Hymenoptera

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ 1/4 - 1/2 inch long
- ◆ black or reddish
- ◆ hairs on abdomen
- ◆ thin “waist” between thorax and abdomen



Where to Look:

Carpenter ants are found in the wood of dead trees, houses, and utility poles.

Who Eats It?

Carpenter ants are eaten primarily by birds, spiders, lizards and armadillos.



LIFE CYCLE

COMPLETE METAMORPHOSIS

Nests are built in cavities of dead wood. Colonies are made up of a queen, female workers and males. Eggs are laid by the queen and larvae are tended by workers. Larvae pupate in silk pupal cases.

What It Eats.

Carpenter ants eat other insects, honey dew and the juice of fruits.

Role in the Ecosystem

Carpenter ants help break down dead wood as they tunnel inside. They can cause extensive damage to homes.



Did You Know

A carpenter ant colony must grow to about 2000 workers before it can produce young queens and males.