



Controlling Ants Q&A

Do ants go dormant or hibernate during the winter?

No, they enter a state of reduced activity or dormancy during cold weather. However, if Texas experiences a mild winter coupled with rain, ants will continue to remain active in your yard and may seek warmth and food sources in your home if not controlled.

How can I protect my home and yard from ants?

We recommend using our version of the Texas Two-Step. The first step is to apply a bait containing a food source and an insecticide. Spread the bait evenly across the yard, allowing worker ants to transport it back to their mounds.

The second step consists of treating any active mounds individually by drenching them with *Ortho Fire Ant Killer*. You can find this product or similar options at Home Depot, Lowe's, or online. Turn off the irrigation system and avoid applying products during rainy weather. Always follow label instructions.



WINTER FLOWER CORNER

Dianthus



- Requires full sun, with at least 6 hours of direct sunlight.
- Flower Colors–White, Lilac, Red, and Pink
- Plant Type– Perennial
- Water once a week in well-draining soil; avoid allowing them to become waterlogged.

Dianthus is a cool-season plant that thrives in Texas's milder winters and can bloom from fall to spring.

TIPS FOR WINTER LANDSCAPE PREP

1. Clean up all plant debris, such as leaves, and remove dead plants. Plant debris is an excellent hiding place for rodents, roaches, insects, and other vermin. Also, removing plant debris helps prevent potential diseases that could infect your plants next year.

2. Start lowering your mowing height on turf. During the winter, thick turf packs down and becomes more susceptible to diseases that will overwinter and attack new growth in the spring. Lower the mowing height by one setting each month until March.
3. Protect outdoor faucets from freezing temperatures.
4. Set the irrigation controller to run one time every two weeks. Turn your controller off if you have received rain during those two weeks.
5. Replenish mulch in beds to add an extra layer of protection for your plants from the cold weather. Mulch holds valuable moisture, reducing the need for winter watering, and helps prevent unwanted winter weeds.



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November 2025 Issue of *Gardening by the Moon*