Formosan Termite Tactics: *10 Ways to Win*



Tactics:

- 1. Know your enemy
- 2. Know what your enemy can do
- 3. Team up with Pest Control
- 4. Know your contract coverage
- 5. Reduce moisture
- 6. Keep plant material away
- 7. No wood/siding to soil contact
- 8. Repair cracks
- 9. Don’t disturb your treatment
- 10. Take action now!

Tactic #1:
Know your enemy!

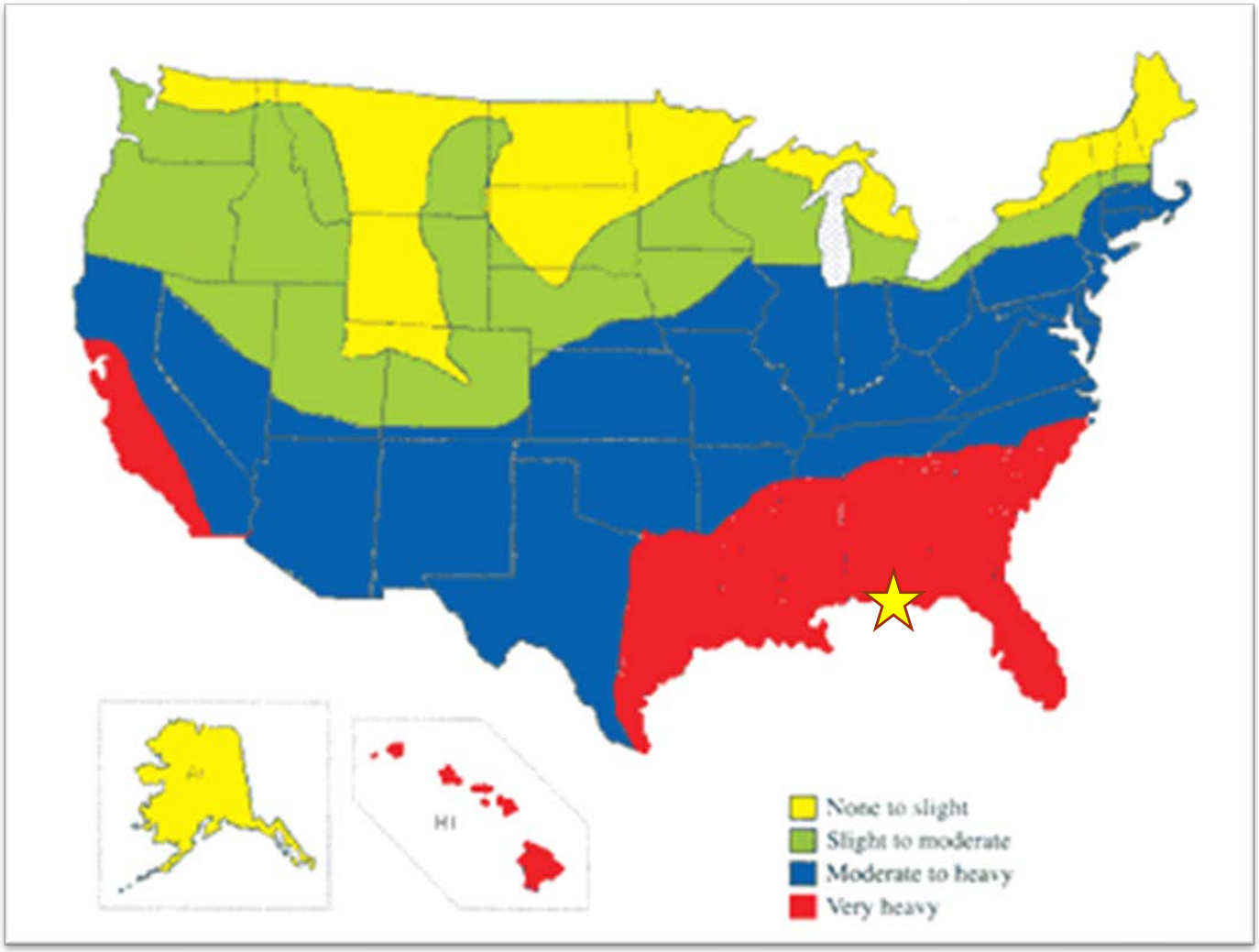
The Formosan Termite *(Coptotermes formosanus)*

- Native to China, “House termite”
- Invaded during WWII to our Southern ports on wood packing material





Formosan termite distribution



Formosan termite colonies

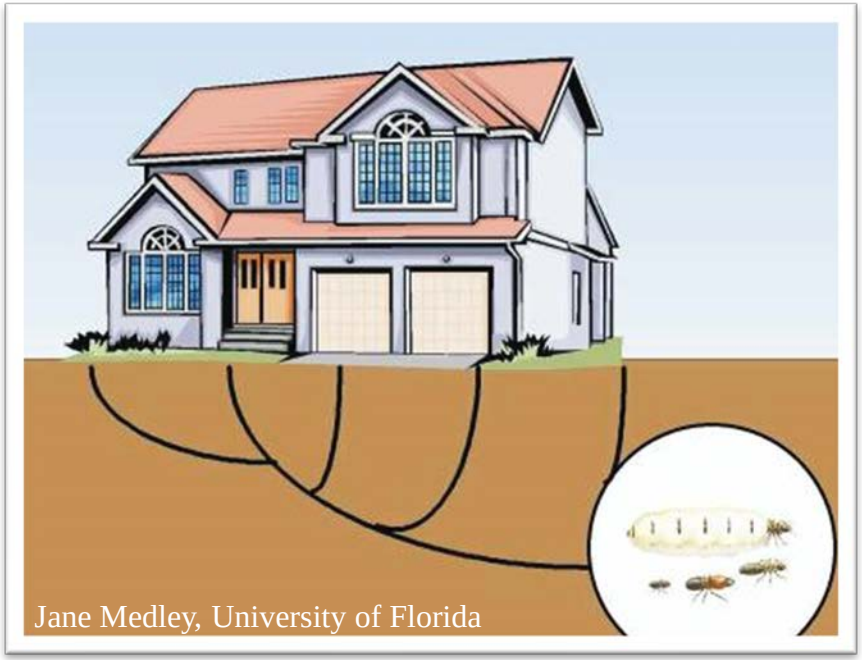
- Contain millions of individuals



- Caste systems:
  - Worker (Damager)
  - Soldier (Defender)
  - King and Queen (Reproductives)
    - Mature queens can lay up to 3,000 eggs/day



Formosans are Subterranean termites



- Live and invade from the underground
- Hidden habits
- Can cover up to 1 acre

Formosans Need Moisture!

- Need MOISTURE to survive and thrive



Formosan Soldiers

- Up to 20% of the colony
  - Native termite up to 2%
- Very aggressive
- Oval head with curved mandibles
  - Secrete a white defensive chemical



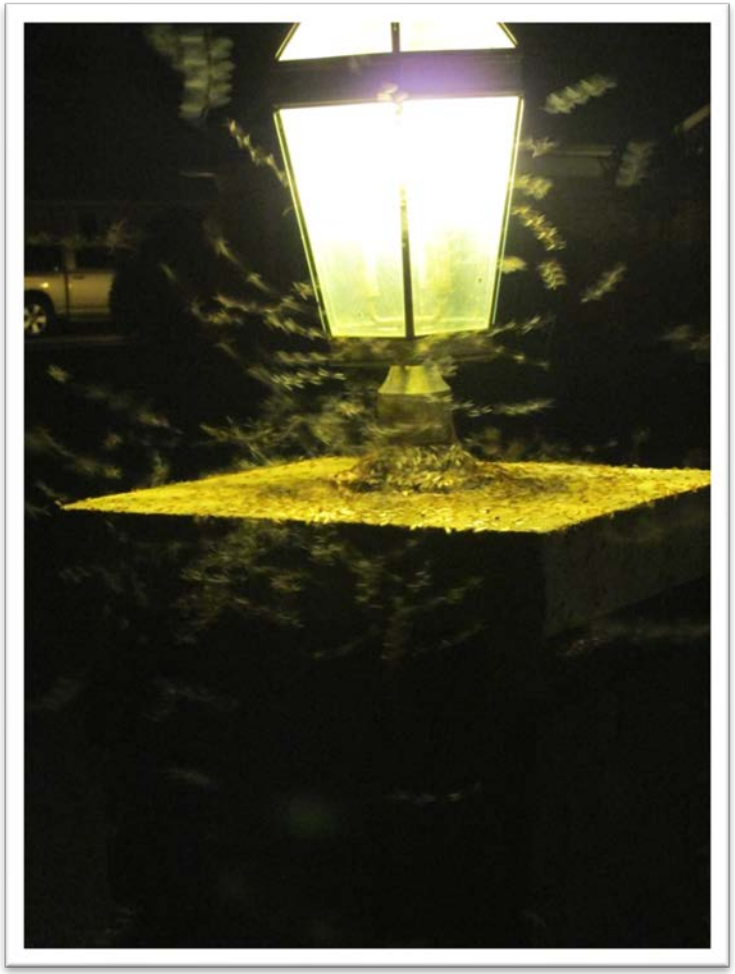
Swarms


USDA-ARS

- Winged termites swarm April to July
  - Mother's Day is the typical start
- At dusk on warm (80°F), calm, humid nights
  - Especially after rain
- Attracted to lights
  - Turn lights off or use a yellow bug light

Swarms





Trapping

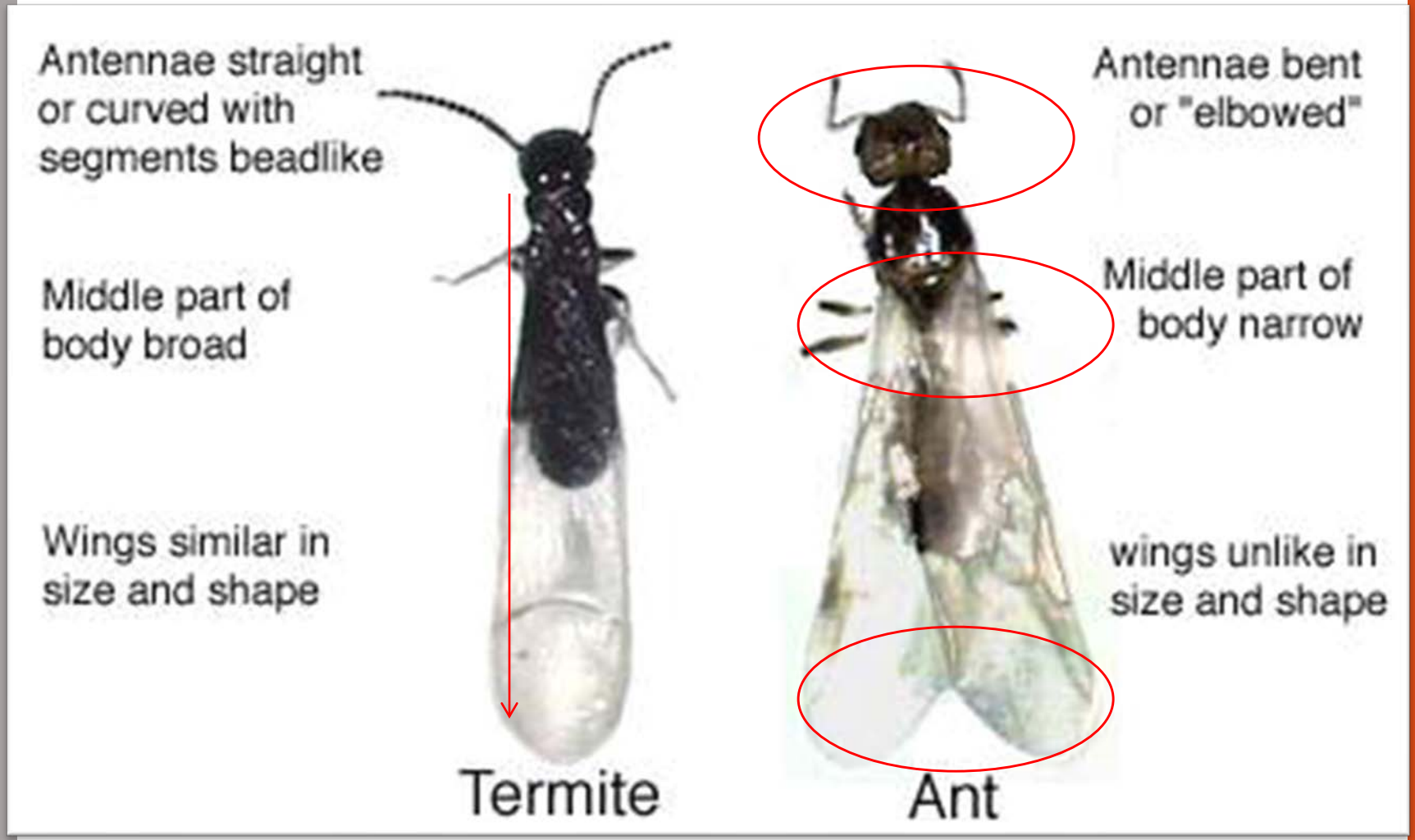




ID: Termite or Ant?



ID: Termite or Ant?



http://www.inspectny.com/images/ft_termite_vs_Ant.jpeg

Tactic #2: Know what your enemy is capable of

Formosan termite damage

- Over $1 Billion a year in the US
- Will eat anything wood based
- Create mud tubes and carton nests
- Prefer height and main structural



Remember: Colonies in the Millions that need and thrive on MOISTURE

Formosan termite damage



Carton Nest

Mud tubes



Formosan termite damage





Formosan termite damage





Formosan termite damage



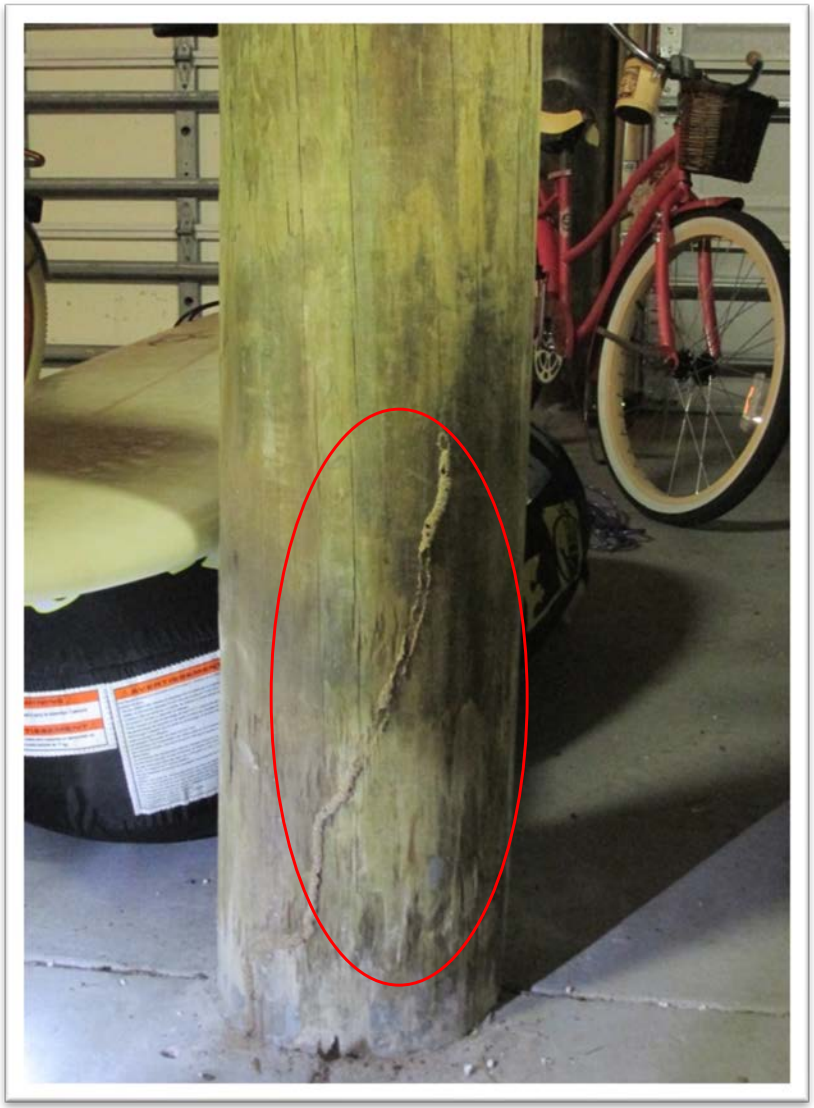


Formosan termite damage





Formosan termite damage







Formosan termite damage



Formosan termite damage





Formosan termite damage



Formosan termite damage





Formosan termite damage





Tactic #3:
Team up with a licensed pest control company

Formosan termite protection

- Prevention is the BEST protection!
- New Construction:
  - Chemical barrier treatment
  - Borate wood treatment
  - Bait system







New Construction Treatment

- Chemical Pre-treatment
  - Before concrete slab poured
  - Horizontal surface barrier
  - Plumbing penetrations
- Chemical Post-treatment
  - Trenching/drilling
  - Exterior vertical barrier
  - After house/landscape complete







New Construction Treatments

Wood treatment

- Applied after ALL wood framing is complete, before insulation
- Borate salts
- Nontoxic to humans/animals
- Permanent barrier



Bait systems

- New or existing construction
- Installed around perimeter of home after completion
- Requires an ACTIVE baiting termite contract!



Formosan termite protection

- Existing Construction:
  - Trenching/drilling chemical treatment
  - Foam treatment in walls/voids
  - Bait system





FL Law and Termites

- Chapter 482: Pest Control
- Chapter 5E-14: Pest Control Regulations
- Licensing and enforcement by:
  - Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)
  - Division of Agricultural Environmental Services

Tactic #4: Know your termite contract coverage

WDO Termite Contracts

- WDO=Wood Destroying Organism
- Formosan termites specifically
- Retreat, retreat/repair, spot treatment
- Structures covered, duration
- Hardwood flooring
- Aerial infestations



WDO Termite Contracts

- Costs of repair or demolition
- Contract transferrable
- Spray foam insulation
- Existing conducive conditions:
  - Water leaks, wood to ground contact, foundation cracks, vegetation or firewood by foundation
- Have an attorney review



Tactic #5: Reduce moisture

Reduce Moisture

- Proper grading of home so water flows away
- Effective gutter and drainage systems
  - Extend 1 ft from home





Reduce Moisture

- Keep gutters clean and maintained



Reduce Moisture

- No sprinklers “watering” the home, direct spray away



Reduce Moisture

- Repair all leaks
  - Especially check around windows
  - Blown in/foam insulation can retain moisture







Reduce Moisture

- Adequate ventilation in crawl space





Tactic #6:
Keep plant material away

Keep plant material away

- Keep landscaping 6 inches to 1 ft from foundation







Keep plant material away

- Keep woodpiles as far away as possible



Keep plant material away

- Remove tree stumps/roots





Keep plant material away

- Trim tree limbs



Keep plant material away





Keep Plant Material Away





Tactic #7:
No wood or siding to ground contact

No wood/stucco to ground contact

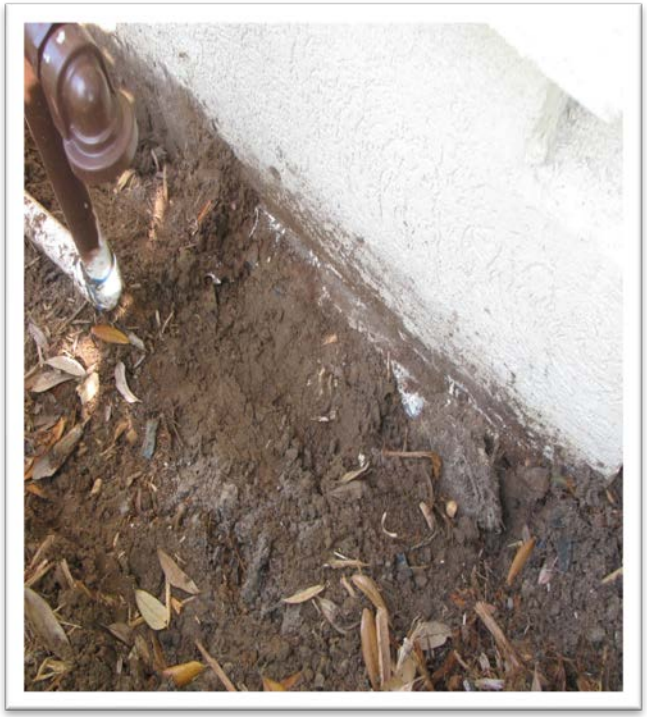
- Keep stucco/exposed wood 6” from soil
  - Includes decks!





No wood/stucco to ground contact

- Stucco and exposed wood 6” from soil





Tactic #8: Repair cracks

Repair cracks

- Repair cracks and holes in foundation and all around exterior
  - 1/64th of an inch for termite to invade



Repair cracks

- Keep stucco repaired and sealed tight



Tactic #9:
Don’t disturb your termite treatment

Don’t disturb treatment

- Don’t remove treated soil directly around the foundation



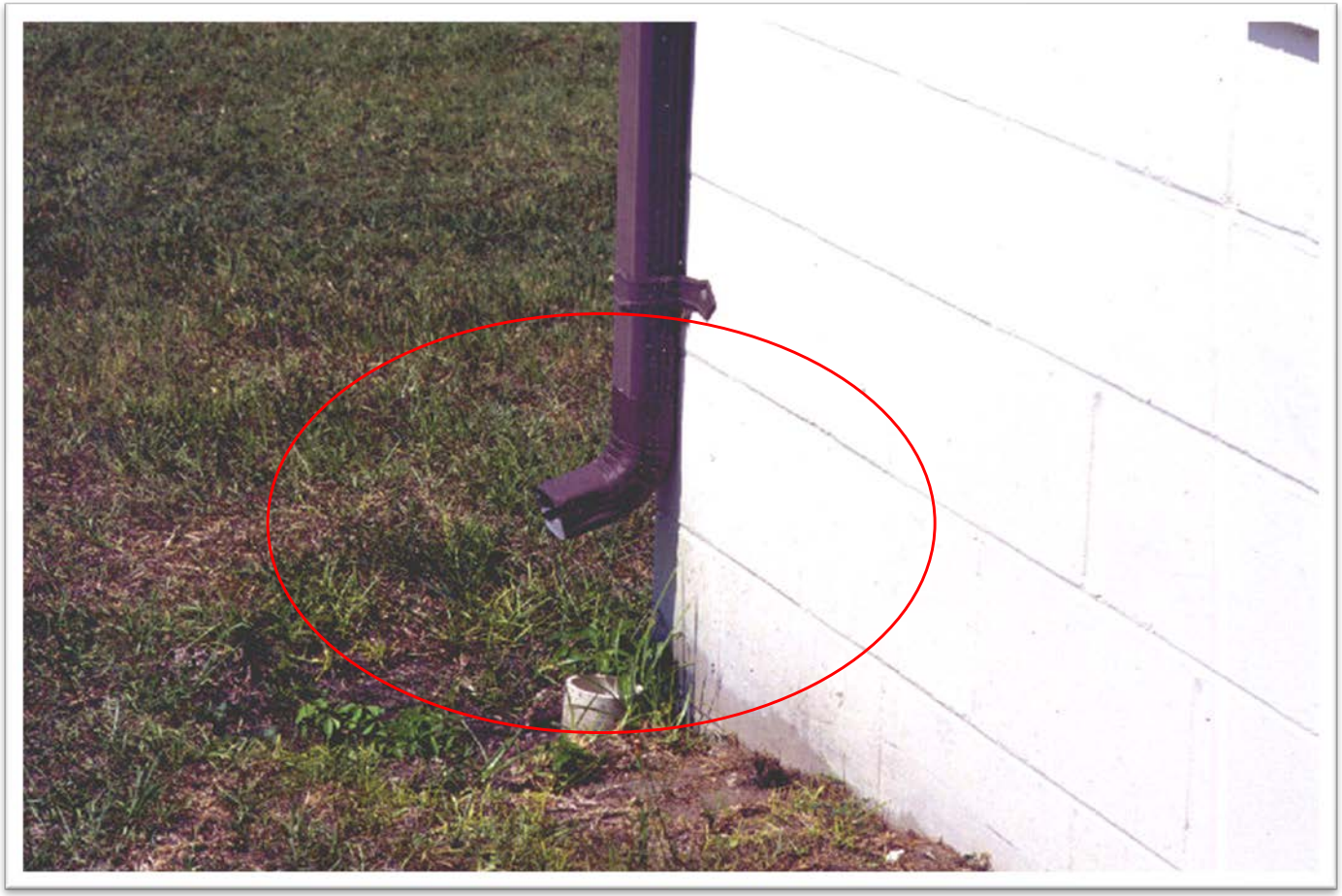
Don’t disturb treatment

- For a borate treated home, make sure if new wood is added, it is ALL borate treated



Tactic #10:
Take action now!

Take action now!



Take action now!



Take action now!



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Pest Control Complaints:

FDACS-AES: Agricultural Environmental Services

- Form: FDACS 13621
- Phone #: (850) 617-7996
- File online: File a Pesticide Complaint / File a Complaint / Contact Us / Home - Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (fdacs.gov)

For more info:

- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Formosan Termite:
  - www.fdacs.com Search: Formosan
- University of Florida Featured Creatures:
  - http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/urban/termites/formosan_termite.htm

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