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INVASIVE “SUPERTERMITES” CAN BE CONQUERED

*Louisiana State University Entomologists Successfully Battle Formosan Termites with **Termidor**® termiticide-insecticide Termite Defense*

Formosan Subterranean termites are responsible for up to \$1 billion in property damage in the United States annually, and the aggressive nature of this invasive species has enabled it to spread across the lower half of the U.S. and Hawaii at an alarming rate. Formosan termites are currently established in eleven states, with experts predicting increased infestations across the country if effective treatment programs are not developed quickly and applied.



In a new line of defense to stop the spread of Formosan termites, the most destructive species of the wood-destroying insect in the U.S., researchers at Louisiana State University’s Agricultural Center completely eliminated extreme Formosan termite infestations at test sites with no signs of re-infestation. USDA Forest Service test sites in other locations using the same liquid treatment have remained 100 percent termite-free for 12 plus years.

Using **Termidor**® termiticide-insecticide, a nonrepellent liquid termite defense product that is completely undetectable to termites, the LSU team and local pest management professionals completely eliminated extreme Formosan termite infestations at two sites: the Allemands Elementary School Cafeteria in Des Allemands, Louisiana, and the PGTB Beauregard Courthouse in St. Bernard, Louisiana.

“Nonrepellent termiticides are the way we wish to go with termite control today because they can transfer from termite to termite, so you can get population reduction,” said Dr. Gregg Henderson, professor of entomology at LSU and the head researcher on this project.

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The treatments were completed in August and September of 2004, and one year later, there were no signs of re-infestation found during any of the monthly inspections and no termite activity found at any in-ground monitors installed around the structures. Both sites were located on the outskirts of New Orleans, La., a city well-known for year-round, widespread Formosan termite activity.

“In twelve years of field/laboratory testing, and over six years of real-world applications by pest control professionals, **Termidor**[®] termiticide-insecticide has provided unmatched control of Formosan termite infestations,” said Dr. Bob Davis, entomologist and Market Development Specialist for BASF. “We’re grateful to Dr. Henderson and his staff for introducing this valuable data to the pest management community, and for their continued efforts to stop the spread of this devastating termite species throughout the country.”



Dr. Bob Davis and Karen Nix, Research Associate Specialist at LSU's Agricultural Center, examine the termite damage.