

## Gelatinous Bait for Argentine Ant

*Instructions for preparing and deploying in vineyards*



### Materials Required

#### Bait Supplies

1. Table sugar
2. Boric Acid (technical grade)
3. Polyacrylamide water storing crystals:  
2-4 mm; Soil Moist, JRM Chemical
4. Water

#### Supplies for Measuring and Mixing

5. Macrobin(s) with lid
6. Drill with stirrer attachment or similar tool
7. Bucket to measure sugar and water
8. Smaller container to measure crystals
9. Scale and container to measure toxicant
10. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
11. Labels to attach to macrobin indicating contents (boric acid)

### Bait Preparation

Use this table to calculate component amounts (adjust accordingly if not using 100% boric acid)

Finished Volume	Water	Sugar	100% Boric acid	Polyacrylamide crystals	Target a.i. concentration
150 gal (568 L)	135 gal (511 L)	284 lb (142 L)	2840 g	8750 ml (7590 g)	0.5%
12 gal (45.4 L)	10.8 gal (40.8 L)	22.8 lb (11.4 L)	227 g	700 ml (600 g)	
2 gal (7.6 L)	1.8 gal (6.8L)	3.8 lb (1.9 L)	38 g	115 ml (99 g)	

## Bait Mixing Instructions

**Add** 1/3 of total water to macrobin

**Add** sugar to water in macrobin.

**Stir** continuously to dissolve.



A **trolling motor** may be used to stir the sugar.



Once sugar is dissolved, **add** remaining water.

**Put** on PPE and **measure** boric acid.

**Add** boric acid to small container with water.

**Mix** to dissolve completely.



**Add** boric acid to macrobin & **mix** thoroughly.

**Measure** the polyacrylamide crystals.

**Add** to macrobin.

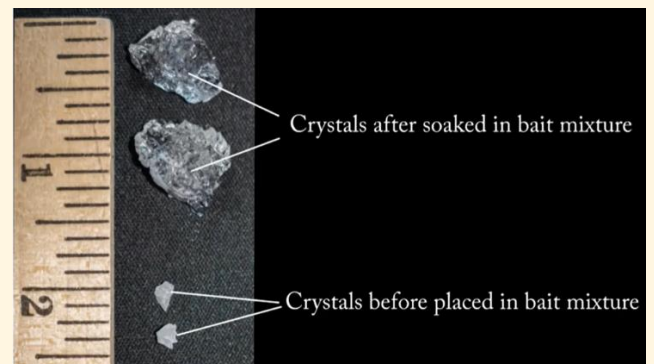


**Cover** macrobin.

**Affix** appropriate labels indicating pesticide.

**Wait** 12 hours (or overnight) for water-storing crystals to expand and absorb bait mixture.

Crystals should be fully expanded but not floating in excess liquid.



## Apply the Bait

**Attach** spreader to ATV or tractor for broadcast application.



**Calibrate** the spreader to apply 10 gallons of hydrated crystals per acre.



**Apply** hydrated crystals in alternate rows.

**Plan** to make 2 applications, at 4 to 6-week intervals in spring.

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## Watch the Video

“Mixing Gelatinous Bait Targeting Argentine Ants in Vineyards”

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=mg9cN6F2Gb0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mg9cN6F2Gb0)



## Additional Resources

Mealybug and vineyard ant identification, detection, and monitoring:

<https://ucceviticulturenapa.wixsite.com/uccevitnapa>

## References

Cooper M., M. Hobbs, C. Boser, L. Varela. 2019. Argentine ant management: using toxin-laced polyacrylamide crystals to target ant colonies in vineyards. Catalyst 3:23-30.



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