



Northern  
Territory  
Government

# Aggregation Methods for Giant Northern Termite (*Mastotermes darwiniensis*)



Entomology Section  
Plant Industries Division  
Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries  
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# **Equipment Required for Aggregation**

- 200 litre drums with lids preferred but smaller drums can be used in certain situations
- Sisalation to control temperature and moisture
- Untreated timber slats from old pallets or packing crates (not hardwood) or forest mulch
- Water
- Large garbage bags
- Wire or adhesive tape
- Shovel

The aggregation method is best used on smaller trees that only have a small infestation of termites.



## 1. Locate active galleries by looking for

- Active tree
- Under mulch
- Under timber or old logs





2. Place small timber slats around active galleries to form a platform, being careful not to block galleries; this is to encourage the *Mastotermes* up into the drum.

- Punch 12 - 15 finger sized holes into the bottom of The drum to allow access to the food source





3. Fill the drum with timber slats, placing them vertically into the drum.

- When filling the drum do not pack the timber too tight as you need lots of surface area to allow easy access for the termites





3. If using forest mulch only half fill the drum as mulch has a greater surface than timber.





4. Carefully place the drum onto the platform over the active galleries - taking care not to block the holes in the bottom of the drum

- Pour approximately 2 -3 litres of water over the timber slats or forest mulch in the drum





5. If possible carefully collect termites from the site and tap them into the drum. If there is room in the top of the drum you can place some infested timber into the drum, this helps with establishment.





6. Place a garbage bag over the timber slats or mulch inside the drum to maintain high humidity (this is to create an environment similar to their natural gallery systems).





7. Place 3 - 4 shovels full of soil onto the garbage bag to help seal the drum.





## 8. Place the lid on the drum

- Place soil onto the top of the lid to secure, fold over sisalation and secure with a log or a heavy object
- Shovel soil around the base of the drum (to stabilise, prevent light and entry of predators e.g. ants, small lizards etc.)





9. Label drum with the date set.

- Leave for 1 week and then check for activity.  
**Important: if the drum is active, leave for further 5 weeks to allow for a large number of the colony to move into the drum before treatment.**  
If the drum is not active after 3 weeks, reset the drum on another active site.





# Treatment Methods

## Aggregation drums

- Active drums can be treated with Termidor® residual termiticide (100 gL fipronil) or Regent® 200 SC Insecticide (200 gL fipronil). Follow the application methods detailed in the APVMA Minor Use Permit PER12428.

## Sacrificial trees and stumps

- When treating trees and stumps drill a hole into the centre of the tree, leave for 24 hours then check if it has been mudded up. If mudded then inject directly into the tree/palm or stump with Termidor® residual termiticide (100 gL fipronil) or Regent® 200 SC Insecticide (200 gL fipronil). Follow the application methods detailed in the APVMA Minor Use Permit PER12428.

**Always use appropriate safety equipment as per label directions.**

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