

Toxic Terrors

STING PLUS: A harvester ant's sting is barbed and causes an extra bit of pain when the insect pulls it out of a victim. This ant injects so much venom that a swarm of stinging harvesters can kill young mammals.

SEEDY: These ants eat a steady diet of seeds, with an occasional insect thrown in. Harvester workers dig up freshly planted or fallen seeds, and are known to travel up to 30 miles from their nest to "harvest" the various grains.

Harvester ants are the farmers of the ant world, spending their days gathering seeds and hauling them to their nest. Other ant species may be fooled by the harvesters' peaceful lifestyle and try to invade their nests, but they're met by a swarming, angry army that uses its jaws and stings as lethal weapons.

Creature Features

ARVESTER

GENUS/SPECIES Pogonomyrmex/various
SIZE: Length up to 0.5 in.

HABITAT: Just about any habitat
from the Western to
Southeastern United States

FOOD: Mostly seeds, some insects
LIFESPAN: Worker a few months;
Queens up to 30 years!