

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, research and communication with extension agents at Mississippi State University, it became very evident that fire ants are becoming a severe problem in our state; and

WHEREAS, according to current research, all counties in Mississippi contain high fire ant infestation; and

WHEREAS, annual damage and control costs for fire ants are estimated in millions of agricultural and homeowner dollars; and

WHEREAS, roughly five million Americans are stung every year by fire ants and that one dozen Americans die from wounds caused by fire ants each year; and

WHEREAS, September is the key time of year when fire ant activity increases and mound formation is abundant; and

WHEREAS, part of a statewide/nationwide effort, Spectrum Brands- a leading manufacturer and marketer of consumer lawn and garden pesticides and household insecticides, wants to partner with our state to raise fire ant awareness among homeowners and residents who, armed with good information, can prevent and address fire ant infestation and damage while improving the quality of life in Mississippi:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim September 1st through 5th, 2003, as

FIRE ANT AWARENESS WEEK

in the State of Mississippi.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, July 15, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-seventh year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR