



Formosan Termite Research Facility

Department of Forest Products
Forest and Wildlife Research Center
Mississippi State University



Formosan Termite Research Facility Field Site and Laboratory



Perfect Location

Located in the Southern part of Mississippi, the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station at McNeill was chosen as a test site because multiple active Formosan Subterranean termite colonies were located on the experiment station prior to establishment of the test site. Alates were captured within the test site in the spring/summer of 2004.

Formidable Pest

The average Formosan Subterranean termite colony will contain from 5-10 million individual termites and a single colony is capable of eating approximately 1,000 pounds of wood per year.

Innovative Solutions

The McNeill site is one of a few places in the world where the termite resistance of four-by-eight foot building panels and associated wall framing can be tested in replicated studies.



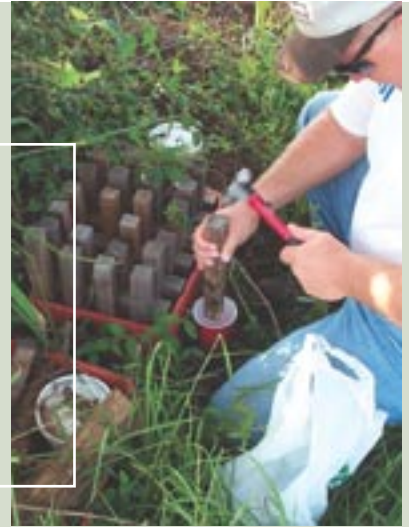
educational opportunities

Both the laboratory and field test site are being used for research, education, and demonstration activities. The laboratory became fully operational in December 2004.

The laboratory is being used for master's and doctoral research projects as well as to evaluate the efficacies of new biocides for controlling the Formosan Subterranean termite.



One doctoral research program conducted at this site involved U.S. patent 6,837,001—Positive directed movement of termites by radio waves as a basis for control procedures. The patent was issued in 2005 to forest products scientists.



MSU College of Architecture, Art and Design students built and placed structures over termite colony locations at the McNeill field site.

The Formosan subterranean termite is believed to have arrived in New Orleans and other Gulf Coast ports as World War II was winding down. For almost 40 years it was a nearly invisible pest, but during the past decade it has caused millions of dollars worth of damage to homes in the New Orleans area alone.

The Formosan termite is now found in portions of Mississippi as well as 13 other states including California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Arkansas, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia and Hawaii. The termite is projected to spread northward in the United States to about 35 degrees latitude, approximately the border between Mississippi and Tennessee.

MSU researchers in the Department of Forest Products are evaluating the resistance of building materials to the Formosan subterranean termite.

They are also evaluating the effectiveness of construction techniques in preventing infestation and evaluating the efficacies of biocides and non-biocidal control measures.

Tests to be conducted at this facility include but are not limited to field stakes, framing, siding, and panel product testing in small-scale houses, and near-ground exposure. All tests are being conducted over established colonies.

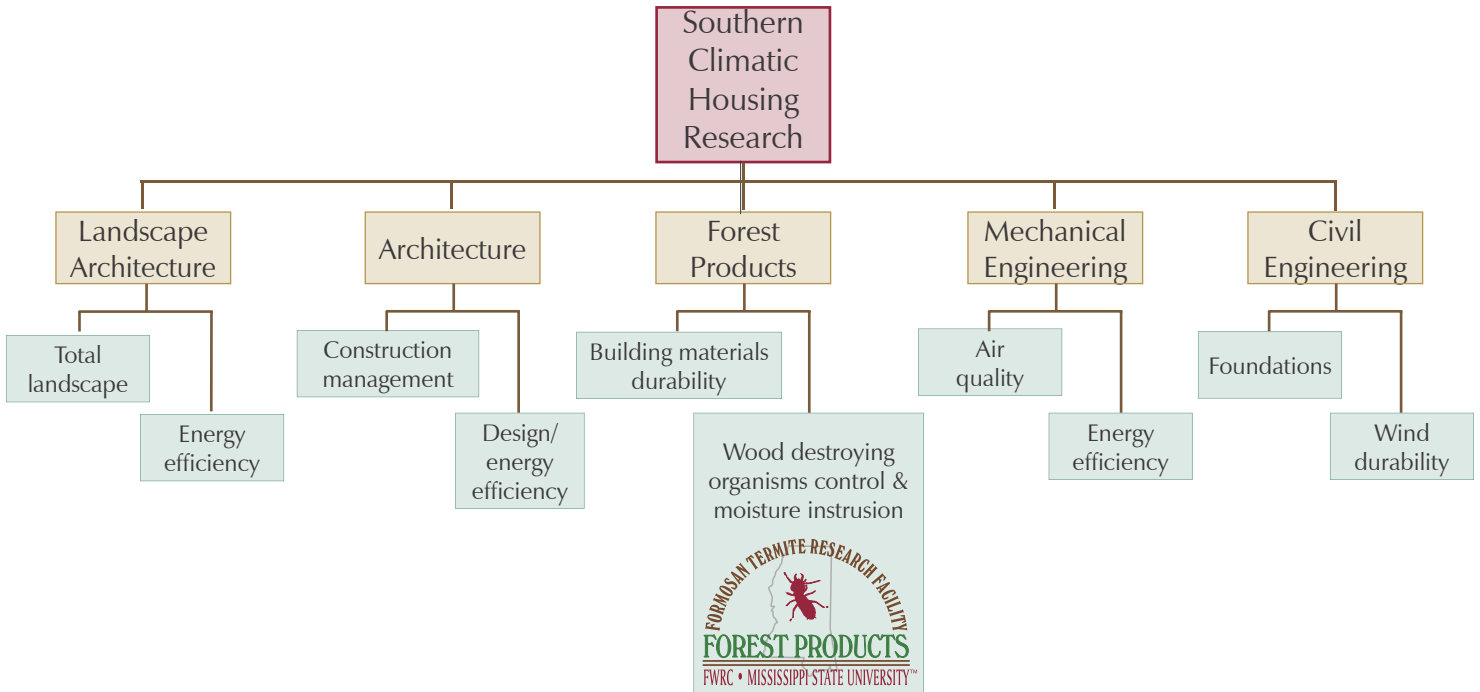
Each colony site consists of a buried colonized wood source and four trenches filled with aged wood which radiate from the colony center.

Tests conducted at the site will provide data required by building product and termiticide manufacturers, code officials, architects, contractors, and entomologists to assure that houses built in Mississippi and other areas colonized by Formosan termites will have a reasonable service life.

Southern Climatic Housing Research

@ Mississippi State University
(in cooperation with the CAHFPR and AHRC)*

a true interdisciplinary/interdepartmental approach to structure design, construction and maintenance



*Coalition for Advanced Housing and Forest Products Research (CAHFPR), a coalition of universities in different climatic regions, in association with the USDA Forest Service, Advanced Housing Research Center (AHRC) at the Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, WI.

For further information contact:

For information on the Southern Climatic Housing Research or the research/demonstration house, please contact:

Dr. Terry Amburgey
Professor
Mississippi State University
Department of Forest Products
662-325-3057
tamburgey@cfr.msstate.edu

For information on the McNeill Formosan Termite Field Test Site, please contact:

Michael G. Sanders
Research Associate III
Mississippi State University
Department of Forest Products
Phone: 662-325-8097
msanders@cfr.msstate.edu



Mississippi State University complies with all applicable laws regarding affirmative action and equal opportunity in all its activities and programs and does not discriminate against anyone protected by law because of age, color, disability, national origin, race, religion, sex, handicap, or status as a veteran or disabled veteran.

