



LASIUS NIGER

READY TO GO?

WAITING IS THE FIRST THING.

That's right, sit back and let your queen wait in the dark for the next hour or 2, nice and quiet so she relaxes after her long journey. It will de-stress her and make her much less grouchy when you meet her.

OPEN AND CHECK HER

Once calm, carefully open and check her to make sure she made the journey ok. When you see she is happy, put her back away at the right temp then check her weekly for workers. (some queens need feeding while founding, you can see if your species does on the next page).

If she has workers now, feed her and resume weekly checks until 30+ workers where she will be ready for her first nest.

Try and keep checks to a minimum (we know it is hard, we just want to watch ours all day too!) but she will thank you for it with extra brood and a lower chance of eating her eggs.



FIRST BITE

Once you have workers add a tiny drop of our very own sugar snap (even species not crazy for sugar could use the extra energy when they first found). Remove uneaten snap the following week and replace with protein, visa versa.

SNUGLY

*The temperature of the nest should sit between **The temperatures given on the fact sheet overleaf** - ideally with a gradient. Try to monitor it though as exceeding 30 degrees could make your queen become infertile and should be avoided if at all possible.*

HUMIDITY IS KEY

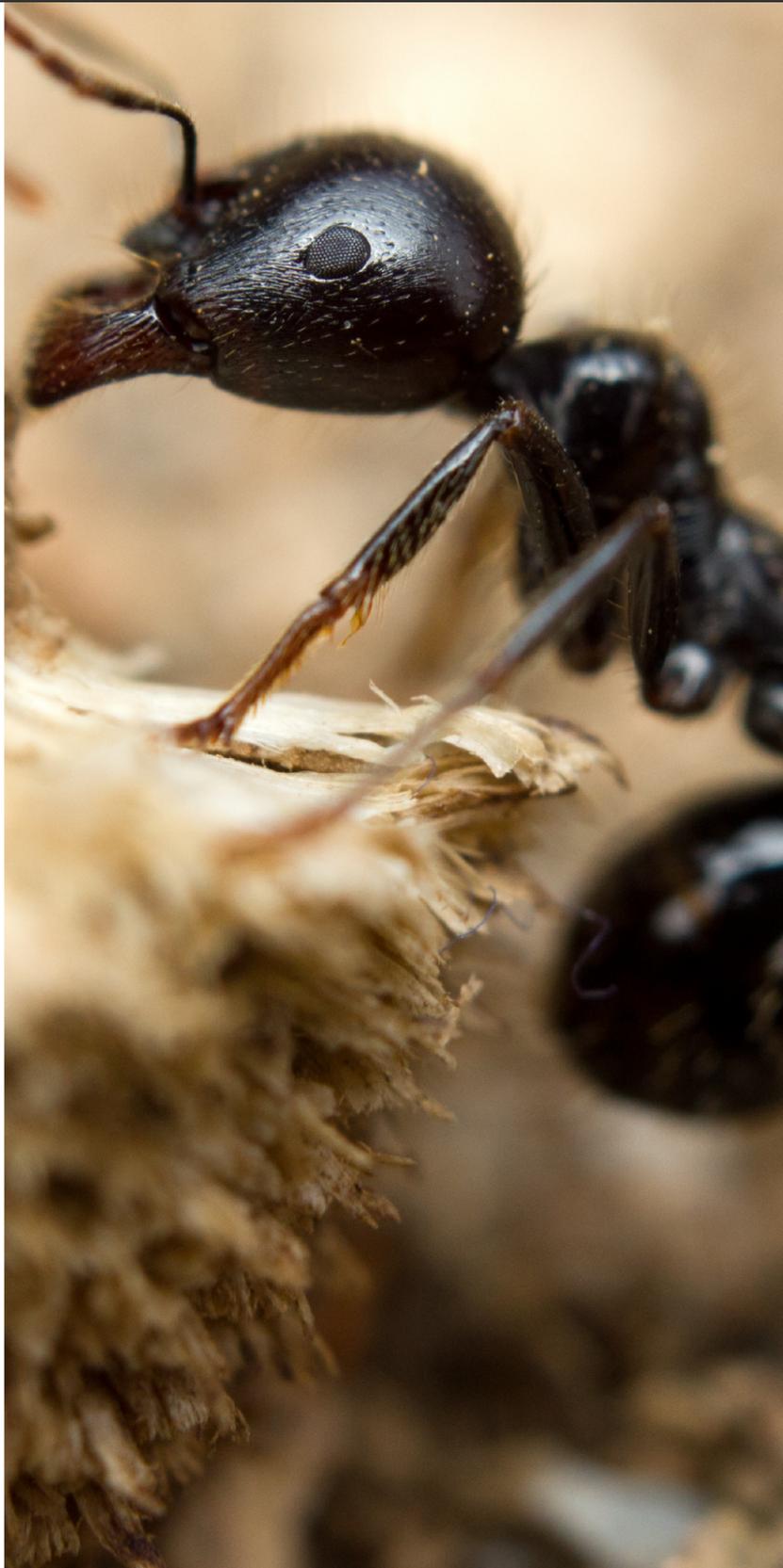
Temperature and humidity, when perfect can increase brood growth and help your queen produce bigger, faster growing colonies. Keep your nest humidity within the target range and remember to water the nest weekly.

TEST TUBE CHANGES

Try to avoid changes unless you see a discoloured water, black mold or they run out of water. If vital then we have provided a spare tube and cotton wool for your tube change.

Attach the 2 tubes together using a plaster (or something breathable) leaving a 1mm gap between tubes as you affix the plaster. Leaving the old tube exposed to light make the new tube dark and warm.

Please do not force a move, your queen could take weeks. She will move over when she is ready



LASIUS NIGER

THE BLACK GARDEN ANT

The Black Garden ant

Do not be fooled by their small, slender, dark brown/black coloured appearance. As these ants are ruthless and typically associated with very numerous and large colonies. You will have seen them when you disturb a paving slab or from their towering anthills before nuptial day.

Found in gardens or nearby parks. Hence, their name "Garden ant". This species is well adapted to founding their colonies in both urban and rural areas, making her a very successful critter.

It was this species that made it to the grand age of 30 years old in a study too, so with care you can take her through your life without saying "goodbye" in a short time.

Here in the UK, dropping an ice-cream or leaving something sweet outside makes ants come from everywhere and cover it. It is the Lasius Niger that is there and establishing fast trails to sweet foods. Their love of sweet things comes from their natural ability to "farm" aphids, these little bugs feed on plant stems and will have Nigers protecting them to "milk" them for their sweet honeydew secretions.

They are a generally fierce warriors in the ant world. Not scared to take on insects or other ants bigger than them and renowned for their famous pre nuptial wars. That's right! these ants wage wars on neighbouring colonies in a bid to gain extra protein before mating season.

This Species of ant that is very suitable for beginners, In terms of growth they are quite fast to develop once the colony reaches 20 workers and over. In the ant keeping hobby, these are one of the most common starter species as they are relatively small, active and harmless to humans. Due to the nature of their natural environment, these ants are mainly active throughout the year but need to hibernate from Late October through to Early March.

KEY STATS

Queen

Age - Up to 30 years

Monogyne - Single queen per nest

Fully Claustal - No food until first workers

Temperature & Humidity

Nest 18 to 22 Degrees | Outworld 18 to 25 Degrees

Nest 50% to 70% | Outworld 30% to 50%

Hibernation

October to March at 5 to 9 Degrees

Polymorphic

No

Bite

No

Diet

Sugars, Proteins (small insects like fruit flies and mealworm)

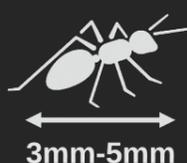
Always ensure a constant fresh water supply is provided

Nest Type

Natural, Sand, Acrylic, Ytong, Earth, Glass

Development

Egg to Adult Worker - 6 to 8 weeks



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