



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

FORMICA CINEREA

THE ASH GREY FIELD RUNNER

The Field Ant

This ash Grey beauty is a formidable and fast species. Thriving throughout several continents they lay their victory to their aggressive and predatory nature. Vast in numbers a single queen can produce up to 10,000 workers, but this species is polygyne and with multiple queens their daughters can overwhelm prey and bring back enough protein to feed the colony with ease.

They love a range of habitats, primarily open spaces like fields and especially sand. However, they are not limited to these areas and their adaptability helps them in not only their European dominance but that of Russia, Asia and the Middle East alike.

Generally unprovoked, you can enjoy this docile species and their beautiful colourings with ease. Aggravated they can rally and recruit extremely quickly with their mass call pheromone and rapid speeds. As with other Formica, they spray formic acid. Be careful in your enclosures and allow ventilation as a colony of Cinerea will quickly fill their outworld with Acid if angry.

Enjoy this species and their shiny Grey colour, they will provide you with hours of entertainment as they work together to eat whatever meal you place in their outworld.

They hibernate between November and March.

CAUTION: This species sprays formic acid. Avoid contact with Eyes, Nose and Throat as well as any open cuts. Ventilate nest and outworld to avoid over-spray.

Colony Size

Up to 10,000 workers

Queen Age

Up to 23 years

Temperature

Room Temperature 21 to 25 degrees

Hibernation

Yes - November to March

Polymorphic (Different size casts)

No

Sting/Spray

Yes - FORMIC ACID

Bite

Yes

Diet

Insects, Sugars, Carbs

Nest Type

Sand, Earth, Ytong, Plaster,

Size

Queen - 12mm

Worker - 6mm-8mm

Development

Egg to Adult Worker - 6 to 8 weeks



Humidity

50-60%

Fully Claustal

No food until first workers

For any questions you have please get in touch through our website messenger.



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