



## 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..*

*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 or small seeds, 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*



# MESSOR WASMANNI

## THE BURGUNDY HARVESTER

### The Burgundy Harvester - Beginner (Heat Required)

The Messor Wasmanni is a nice variation of harvester which has a deep purple / burgundy thorax under light. This species is slightly smaller than the popular barbarus but once established has a very different look and behaviour.

Found in the most southern parts of Europe, our Wasmanni is sourced in Greece but they span all the way to northern Africa and the Middle East too. They love higher temperatures of 25-30 degrees and are typically found in arid environments.

In addition to being pretty ants they are also almost entirely grainivorous. They primarily and almost exclusively eat seeds and grains with very little need for additional protein. Wasmanni have been noted as only taking insects if one poses a threat on a trail or a dead one is found.

*Harvested seeds are eaten by the ants, using the large Majors jaws to de-shell them. They are then chewed into a protein rich food source known as "ant-bread". It is this ant-bread Wasmanni get 95% of their nutrients from.*

Wasmanni are also Polymorphic. They will produce larger majors who can split the toughest of shells and defend the colony.

Harvesters make great beginner species. It is worth noting however that they do require a humidity gradient to store seeds in a dry section of the nest. They are also prone to drowning, open water sources should be avoided in favour of ones which use mesh or cotton.

#### Colony Size

Excess of 10,000 workers

Slow growth until 30 to 50 workers, colony will grow rapidly with the first Majors.

#### Queen

Age - Up to 28 years

Monogyne - One queen per nest

Fully Claustral - No food until first workers

#### Temperatue & Humidity

Nest 22 to 26 Degrees | Outworld 25 to 30 Degrees

Nest 50% to 70% | Seed Store 30% to 50%

#### Hibernation

November to March at 13-15 Degrees

#### Polymorphic (Different size casts)

Yes

#### Sting | Bite

No | Majors can bite

#### Diet

Seeds, Nuts, Grains, Occasional Sugar, Occasional extra protein.

#### Nest Type

Natural, Acrylic, Sand, Earth, Glass

#### Size

Queen - 11mm-14mm

Worker - 4mm-8mm

Major - 9mm-11mm

#### Development

Egg to Adult Worker - 8 to 10 weeks



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



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