



LASIVUS FLAVUS

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

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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.

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LASIUS FLAVUS

THE SHY, FRIENDLY ANT

Yellow Meadow Ant - Beginner Species

Lasius flavus, is a ground dweller spending its their underground. They prefer not to move out in the open visible to the sun and predators. Being so small and nimble they have evolved perfectly for a life beneath the grass. Constructing long small tunnels they can travel great distance in their hunt for insects and new livestock. By livestock of course we mean Aphids! Flavus collect and grow their own aphids underground providing roots for them to eat safely in return for honeydew. They are very shy and friendly ants.

Although Lasius flavus is a fully claustral species, able to form new societies with a single queen they more often than not choose to found colonies with multiple queens. It is very common for the queens to huddle up together in large groups in what's called pleometrosis [multiple founding queens].

This does not end well however, they find it more suitable separating up in the nest to avoid fighting the other queens to the death.

Why are they perfect for beginners? because they are so shy, they can live comfortably in a nest (especially a sandwich nest) and will seldom need an outworld in mass numbers. Their nature means they will not try to escape at every opportunity either. All in they grow very fast too which means younger antkeepers who like quick results will be pacified.

Each Flavus queen can produce up to 10,000 workers. This is impressive we know but multiple queen colonies with ideal conditions and resources can easily surpass 100,000 workers, that is very impressive colonies.

KEY STATS

Queen

Age - Up to 22 years

Polygyne - Multiple queens per nest

Fully Claustral - No food until first workers

Temperature & Humidity

Nest 18 to 25 Degrees | Outworld 18 to 25 Degrees

Nest 50% to 70% | Outworld 40% to 60%

Hibernation

October to March at 5 to 9 Degrees

Polymorphic

No

Bite

No

Diet

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

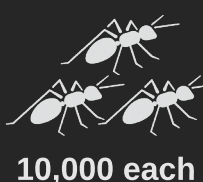
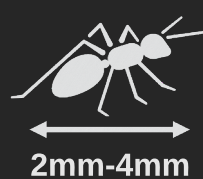
Always ensure a constant fresh water supply is provided

Nest Type

Natural, Sand, Acrylic, Ytong, Earth, Glass

Development

Egg to Adult Worker - 6 to 8 weeks



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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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LASIUS NIGER

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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)

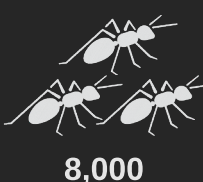
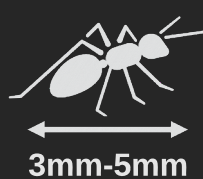
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Nest Type

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Development

Egg to Adult Worker - 6 to 8 weeks



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LASIUS GRANDIS READY TO GO?

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LASIUS GRANDIS

THE SOUTHERN GARDEN ANT

The Southern Garden ant

Grandis are often tarred with the same brush as Lasius Niger, whenever a search is done you will see "similar but not" "Slightly Different". But Grandis are their own Species, they are wonderful and they are definitely deserving a non comparative description. After all they are beautiful with their slight golden colouring to the Gaster.

Grandis are found in parks, grassland, gardens and streets across the south of Spain and northern Africa. They absolutely love warm brood and instinctively bring it to the surface during the day where the soil or pavement is hottest, returning to the depths during the night.

This tactic is what makes Grandis so great as a beginner species, they "just know" how to maximise their growth and reward your time with a bursting colony that will reach 10K+ in just a few short years if you keep their conditions right.

It is this diversity which also enables them to be very forgiving in their environment. Making the best of any given situation is a trait they employ and may be a reason why there are so many long lasting colonies living 20 or even 30+ years.

Dont be fooled though, they are avid hunters. They are extremely tough ants and with their impressive numbers they can will quickly subdue neighbouring colonies and protect resources. Even forming foraging lines to their food sources, Aphids being one such commodity which are guarded in numbers.

Although on the outset they are similar to other species, Grandis as the name suggests are bigger. Maybe not in length but they have a larger gaster. This makes them more efficient carrying food to the colony.

Perfect for beginners and experienced keepers alike. These agile and fun ants will entertain you no end while you enjoy the behaviour's and organisation of this fast growing and forgiving species.

KEY STATS

Queen

Age - Up to 30 years

Monogyne - Single queen per nest

Fully Claustal - No food until first workers

Temperature & Humidity

Nest 21 to 24 Degrees | Outworld 20 to 25 Degrees

Nest 60% to 70% | Outworld 30% to 50%

Hibernation

December to February at 11 to 15 Degrees

Polymorphic

No

Bite

No

Diet

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

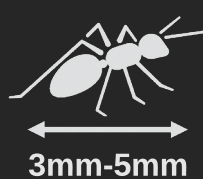
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LASIUS UMBRATUS

THE PARASITE LASIUS

A social Parasite - Beginner

Umbratus are a beautiful amber coloured species of ant which is much less common than Niger, Flavus or Grandis despite being found in all the same environments as them. This is because they primarily live underground and many die in search of (or obtaining) a host colony to steal.

Lasius Umbratus are unable to found a colony independently and require workers to provide food. Taking over existing brood and workers from another queen provides the workforce needed to kick start a colony.

Founding a colony for any queen is risky to say the least. It is believed up to 97% of queens do not make it past 12 months since nuptials. After waking up from hibernation in March the Lasius Niger queens from the previous July are hard at work sending out nuptials and raising brood to bring their colony to life. Inadvertently one of their biggest threats is about to have a nuptial flight too.

In roughly May, Lasius Umbratus queens leave their nests and knowing a full niger colony means certain death, a new colony with less than 100 workers means she can deliberately get attacked by them and flee. After several attacks she adopts enough scent to enter the nest (fooling the workers) and she kills the queen, adopting the workers as her own taking and taking place as the new queen.

The Umbratus queen has a new workforce and can lay her eggs knowing they will be taken care of.

The reason you may not notice them is because they live almost exclusively underground, subterranean aphids are farmed between root systems to provide sugars and soil dwelling insect provide their proteins.

They are a fascinating and pretty species which although difficult to found (you need host workers and brood) they will reward you with a wonderful colony if you get it right.

Colony Size

Up to 6,000 - 9,000 workers

Queen Age

Up to 16 years

Monogyne - one queen per nest

Social Parasite - needs workers and brood to found colony

Temperature

Room Temperature 21 to 24 degrees

Hibernation

October to March at 5 to 8 degrees

Polymorphic (Different size casts)

No

Sting | Bite | Spray

No

Diet

Insects, Sugars, Carbs

Nest Type

Acrylic, Sand, Earth, Ytong, Plaster, Glass

Size

Queen - 7mm-8mm

Worker - 3mm-5mm

Development

Egg to Adult Worker - 5 to 6 weeks



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