



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 BARBARUS

EUROPEAN HARVESTER ANT

The Harvester Ant

This species is one of the most common Harvesters in the European continent. Found throughout central and southern Europe they are typically all black with a deep purple/red head, sometimes you can find combinations of red on the gaster, thorax as well. This is especially true in the queens and large major workers. However the minors and media workers normally lack this red trait.

These ants in particular made news headlines when farmers believed they were stealing their seeds and began a cull only to realise they actually play a massive part of the ecosystem and benefit the production for crop farmers completely. Messors will carry the seeds on their own roads back to the colony, sometimes up to 50ft away.

This process causes seed dispersal and helps aerate the soil within their nests. It has been rumored that a Messor will even plant seeds outside the nest, we don't know if this is for idleness, to germinate them for the soft sprout, to hide their nest or to secure future seeds. either way you will be able to draw your own conclusions when you watch them yourself.

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 these ants get 90% of their nutrients from.

In the wild, nests are often found among low lying shrubs and ground dwelling plants typically associated with Olive groves and land unhindered by humans, wherever there are plants which seed, Messors will be somewhere nearby.



Colony Size

Excess of 10,000 workers

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

Queen

Up to 30 years | Monogyne

Temperature

Heated 22 to 25 degrees

Hibernation

Yes - November to Feb

Polymorphic (Different size casts)

Yes

Sting

No

Bite

Yes

Diet

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

Nest Type

Natural, Acrylic, Sand, Earth, Glass

Size

Queen - 14mm-18mm

Worker - 3mm-16mm

Polymorphic - Yes, Majors can be almost as big as the Queen

Development

Egg to Adult Worker - 8 to 10 weeks



Humidity

Nest - 60-70% | Seed Store 40-50%

Fully Claustal

No food until first workers

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



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