



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 FUSCA

THE BLACK WOOD ANT

The Black Wood Ant -Beginner

As a species they are a hard working, beautiful ant. Known as wood ants they are found across Europe and Russia and can be found under stones, fallen trees or in rotting / dead wood. Fusca are very fast ants, they can easily evade an enemy and flee to the safety of their nest. This evolution of agility makes fusca perfect for non-conflict situations, often targeting weak or dead prey as opposed to things that fight back.

Their nests usually contain more than one Queen, as a polygyne species fusca are very accepting of new Queens at any stage of founding, mature colonies can accept queens back once they have had nuptials too, but it is this accepting nature that makes them the perfect victim of raids by Slave-Maker ants who can overwhelm and steal vast quantities of brood and pupae in a single raid. This affects fusca colony numbers drastically in areas where nearby slavemaker nests are located.

Formica are a beautiful gloss black ant which is a must have for any keepers collection. Although patience is required in founding. They can be difficult to start and like the barbarus they will eat their eggs as a defensive measure if disturbed or stressed too often. We know its hard but checking a maximum of once a week will help they stay calm.

Warning: This species has a potent formic acid which they spray. A stressed colony in an un-vented setup could run into problems as they defensively spray their acid.

Colony Size

6,000-9,000 workers

Queen Age

12 to 18 years

Polygyne (Multiple Queens per colony)

Temperature

Room 20 to 27 degrees

Hibernation

Yes - late October through early March at 5 to 10 degrees.

Polymorphic (Different size casts)

No - Workers vary by a few mm but not considered polymorphic.

Sting/Spray

Spray formic acid - Caution in poorly ventilated outworlds or if you have open wounds it can touch.

Bite

Yes - a Pinch

Diet

Protein, Sugars, honey and Insects

Nest Type

Natural, Acrylic, Sand, Earth, Glass.

Size

Queen - 12mm

Worker - 4mm-8mm

Development

Egg to Adult Worker - 8 to 11 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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