

Lasius alienus

(Foerster, 1850)

A small, shy brown Lasius of warm, dry grassland and limestone ground, easily mistaken for the black garden ant.



Photo: Philipp Hoenle (myrmecophil), CC0 1.0



At a glance



NEST TEMPERATURE
21–25 °C

In the nest



NEST HUMIDITY
50–60 %

In the nest



HIBERNATION
5–8 °C

Oct – Mar



NUPTIAL FLIGHTS
Jul – Sep



WORKERS
2–4 mm

All the same size



QUEEN
7–9 mm

One queen



COLONY SIZE
Reaches 5,000 workers

Growth: Moderate

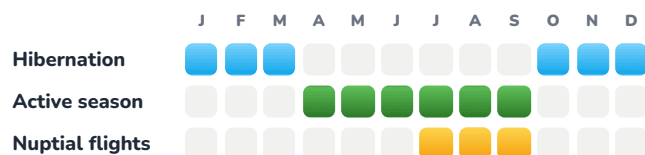


ESCAPE RISK
Medium

Keep an escape barrier on the outworld



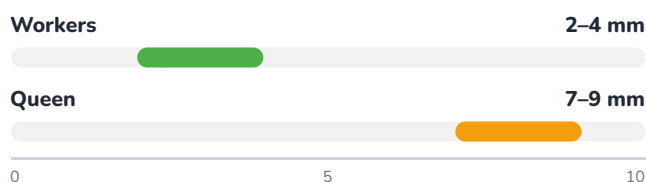
Year at a glance



Months for temperate Europe and the Mediterranean. The weather decides the exact days, so flights can come earlier or later where you live.



Sizes on the same scale



Care at a glance

FOOD

Sugar

Insects

BEST NESTS

1. Sandwich nest
2. Ytong nest
3. Acrylic nest

WHY THIS RATING

- ✓ Fully claustral: the queen needs no food until her first workers arrive
- ⚠ Curious workers: keep an escape barrier on the outworld
- ⚠ Needs a cold hibernation, for example in a fridge



Notes from keepers

TIP

Care is much like *Lasius niger*: the claustral queen needs no food until her first workers hatch, then offer sugar water or honey and small insects such as fruit flies. In one German keeping report the workers carried small prey into the nest readily but visited the honey only now and then after the first weeks.

WATCH OUT

Check the identification before you plan around it. Founding queens are easily mixed up with *Lasius niger*, and experienced forum members say this ant cannot be named from photos. Wait for normal-sized workers and look at several of them under a strong lens, since the tiny first workers carry fewer hairs. Until then, call the colony *Lasius cf. alienus*.