

# Lasius flavus

(Fabricius, 1782)

## Yellow meadow ant

A shy, golden-yellow soil dweller that herds root aphids and raises grassy mounds in old meadows.



Photo: Philipp Hoenle (myrmecophil), CC0 1.0

### At a glance



**NEST TEMPERATURE**  
**20–25 °C**

In the nest



**NEST HUMIDITY**  
**60–70 %**

In the nest



**HIBERNATION**  
**5–8 °C**

Oct – Mar



**NUPTIAL FLIGHTS**  
**Jul – Sep**

Hot days, Calm weather



**WORKERS**  
**2–5 mm**

All the same size



**QUEEN**  
**7–9 mm**

One or more queens



**COLONY SIZE**  
**No data yet**

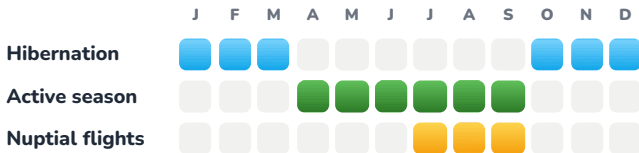
Growth: Moderate



**ESCAPE RISK**  
**Low**

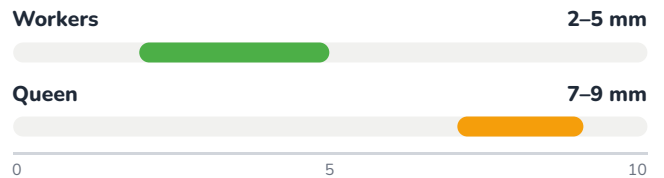
Calm ants that rarely try to escape

### 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. Ytong nest
2. Sandwich nest
3. Naturalistic setup

#### WHY THIS RATING

- ✓ Calm workers that rarely try to escape
- ✓ Fully claustral: the queen needs no food until her first workers arrive
- ⚠ Needs a cold hibernation, for example in a fridge

### Notes from keepers

#### TIP

In the wild they live mostly on honeydew from root aphids, so keep honey or sugar water on offer whenever the colony is active and add small soft insects, like fruit flies, for the brood.

#### WATCH OUT

Colonies grow slowly compared with other Lasius, so expect a small colony for the first years and leave a founding queen undisturbed in her test tube.