

Lasius niger

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Black garden ant

Adaptable, undemanding and found in almost every garden: the classic first colony.



At a glance



NEST TEMPERATURE

23–25 °C

In the nest



NEST HUMIDITY

40–60 %

In the nest



HIBERNATION

8–12 °C

Oct – Mar



NUPTIAL FLIGHTS

Jul – Aug

Hot days, Calm weather



WORKERS

3–5 mm

All the same size



QUEEN

8–9 mm

One queen



COLONY SIZE

No data yet

Growth: Moderate



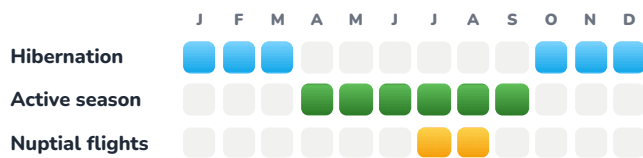
ESCAPE RISK

Medium

Keep an escape barrier on the outworld



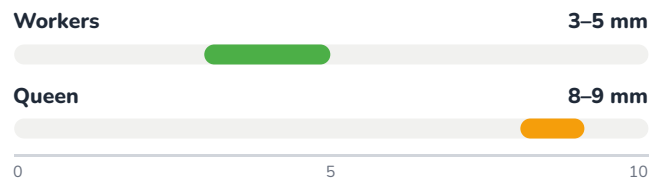
Year at a glance



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



From my colonies

TIP

Use a soil-based sandwich nest to watch them dig their own tunnels, or a white Ytong nest, where the black workers stand out sharply.

WATCH OUT

They don't like dry air, so if the nest dries out too fast, rearrange the setup or add a piece of wood or bark that holds moisture.