

Messor wasmanni

Krausse, 1910

Wasmann's harvester ant

A big-headed seed harvester of sunny Italian and Balkan grasslands, with tidy trails to its nest and a name still written with a cautious cf.



Photo: Philipp Hoenle (myrmecophil), CC0 1.0

At a glance



NEST TEMPERATURE
22–26 °C

In the nest



NEST HUMIDITY
50–70 %

Seed granaries: 30–50 %



HIBERNATION
12–15 °C

Dec – Feb



NUPTIAL FLIGHTS
Sep – Nov

After rain



WORKERS
4–8 mm

majors up to 10 mm



QUEEN
12–14 mm

One queen



COLONY SIZE
Reaches 5,000 workers

Growth: Moderate



ESCAPE RISK
Low

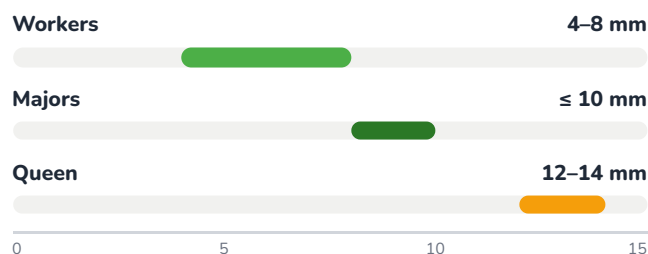
Calm ants that rarely try to escape

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

Seeds

Insects

Sugar

BEST NESTS

1. Ytong nest
2. Acrylic 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
- ✓ Stores seeds, so a missed feeding is not a problem
- ⚠ Needs a humidity gradient, with dry granaries and humid brood chambers

Notes from keepers

TIP

Offer whole seed heads of grasses now and then, not only loose seeds: in the wild these ants pick seeds straight from the plant as well as from the ground.

WATCH OUT

A queen caught after the autumn flight usually starts laying only in spring, after the winter rest, so an empty-looking test tube all winter is normal. Keep it dark and quiet instead of checking on her.