

Tetramorium caespitum

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Pavement ant

Tiny, tough and fast-growing, as long as your nest is escape-proof.



At a glance



NEST TEMPERATURE

21–27 °C

In the nest



NEST HUMIDITY

50–60 %

In the nest



HIBERNATION

5–8 °C

Oct – Mar



NUPTIAL FLIGHTS

Jun – Aug



WORKERS

2–4 mm

All the same size



QUEEN

6–8 mm

One queen



COLONY SIZE

No data yet

Growth: Fast



ESCAPE RISK

High

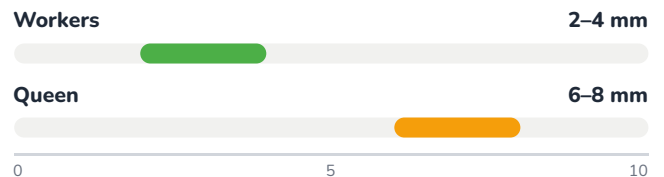
Escape artists: use a closed outworld and a good barrier

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. Acrylic nest
2. Test tube setup
3. Naturalistic setup

WHY THIS RATING

- ✓ Fully claustral: the queen needs no food until her first workers arrive
- ⚠ A real escape artist that needs an escape-proof setup
- ⚠ Needs a cold hibernation, for example in a fridge
- ⚠ The workers can sting

From my colonies

TIP

Give this fast grower plenty of protein: once the first workers are out, regular insects feed the queen and the brood.

WATCH OUT

These ants are masters at finding gaps, so pick an acrylic or test tube-based nest whose layers fit tightly together, and check every join of a naturalistic enclosure.