

Tetramorium immigrans

Santschi, 1927

Immigrant pavement ant

The common pavement ant of North American cities: tiny, tough and fast-growing, it fights mass battles on sidewalks in spring.

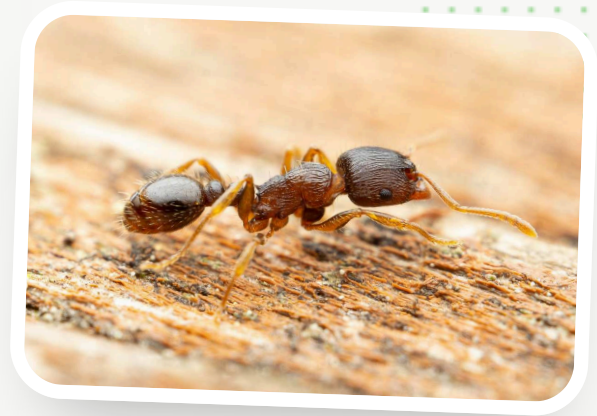


Photo: Jake Nitta (froggy143), CC BY 4.0

At a glance



NEST TEMPERATURE
22–28 °C

In the nest



NEST HUMIDITY
40–60 %

In the nest



HIBERNATION
5–10 °C

Nov – Feb



NUPTIAL FLIGHTS
May – Jul

Calm weather, Humid air



WORKERS
2.5–4 mm

All the same size



QUEEN
7–8 mm

One queen



COLONY SIZE
Reaches 10,000 workers

Growth: Fast



ESCAPE RISK
High

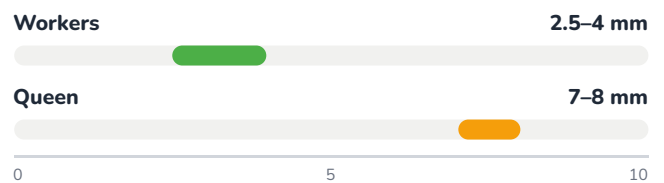
Escape artists: use a closed outworld and a good barrier

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

Insects

Sugar

Seeds

BEST NESTS

1. Test tube setup
2. Acrylic nest
3. Ytong nest

WHY THIS RATING

- ✓ Fully claustral: the queen needs no food until her first workers arrive
- ✓ Stores seeds, so a missed feeding is not a problem
- ⚠ A real escape artist that needs an escape-proof setup
- ⚠ Colonies get huge and need room to expand
- ⚠ The workers can sting

Notes from keepers

TIP

Give the nest a moist end and a dry end, and warm one side only. Keepers report that the workers keep the eggs and larvae in the damp part and move the pupae and seeds to the drier part. In a test tube, heat only the end away from the water, because warming the water can make the tube flood.

WATCH OUT

The workers are tiny and test every gap. One keeper saw Tetramorium eat an olive oil barrier, and another had workers slip through a small gap into a neighboring colony's setup, where they were killed at once. Use a tight lid, glue fine steel mesh over the vents and add a second barrier such as Fluon.