

# Lasius niger

## BLACK GARDEN ANT

### QUICK DESCRIPTION

*Lasius niger*, commonly called **black garden ant**, is one of the most popular ant species among ant keepers all over the world. Due to its very easy requirements and strong adaptability, *Lasius niger* is considered **one of the best species for beginners**.

### DISTRIBUTION

*Lasius niger* is **extremely common in Europe**, where it fills the yards of every house on the continent. It can also be found in **some parts of North America and Asia**.

### TEMPERATURE

*Lasius niger* is very adaptable, and can easily be kept at room temperature. Anyway, if you wanna speed up the colony development a bit, the ideal temperature would be **between 23 and 25 degrees Celsius**. If you live in a cold area or you usually use an air conditioner in the room your ants are in, maybe **a heat mat or a heat cable could be useful**.

### HUMIDITY

When it comes to humidity levels, *Lasius niger* doesn't have extreme demands. They like a range of moisture levels that go **from 10% to 50%**. If you notice that your nest dries out too quickly, **you may have to consider changing the setup a bit**



### FOOD

*Lasius niger* loves every type of high-sugar food. **Honey, fruit, sugar water, ant jellies, jams...** They go crazy for them! As the protein source you can give them **mealworms, fruit flies, spiders, crickets, wax worms and beetles**. One peculiar thing about this species is that in the wild **they milk aphids for their honeydew**.

### HIBERNATION

*Lasius niger* needs hibernation. They hibernate through the winter, **from around late October to early March**. For this species, the ideal temperature for hibernation is around **10 degrees Celsius**.

### NEST TYPE

When it comes to choosing a formicarium for *Lasius niger*, you have a ton of different options. The ideal nest type for this species would be **one based on some type of soil or dirt**, in order to replicate their natural habitat. Another valid alternative is a **Ytong nest**.