BEST ANTS UK | ANT CARE SHEET

Keeping ants since 1997

Intermediate

Myrmecocystus mimicus

Mimic honey pot ant

A day-active honey pot ant whose repletes store nectar and whose colonies settle borders with ritual tournaments. A North American ant, not sold by Best Ants UK and possibly illegal or impossible to import to the UK.

ORIGIN

South-western and central USA, northern Mexico

Warm, dry woodland, scrub and grassland

NEST TEMPERATURE

28–35°C

Advanced Heating System Small at 30°C, under a quarter of the nest

OUTWORLD TEMPERATURE

18°C night, up to 28°C day

By day as close to the nest as you can manage

HUMIDITY

Nest 50–70%

Outworld about 50%, never watered

WINTER

None in the first year

From year two a 2–3 month rest at about 20°C, heater off

MOVE TO A NEST

10+ workers

15–20 is better, a lone queen too

SIZE

Queen 8–9 mm

Workers 3–6 mm; repletes swell into honey pots

COLONY

One queen

Up to about 10,000 ants

Food

- **Carbohydrates:** organic Ant Honey or Ant Nectar at every feed, twice a week; never let them run short; far better than sugar water
- **Proteins:** Protein Jelly or Cricket Mash twice a week (keep the jelly in the fridge); scalded, halved live food for big colonies only

- Feed in the outworld only and remove leftovers after 2 days. Founding queen: a tiny drop of protein jelly on tin foil once a week
- Buy food only from established ant-keeping suppliers: bird seed, dried mealworms and pet-shop live food often carry blood-sucking mites

Water

- Distilled or purified water only, never tap, rain or mineral water, even boiled
- Pipette a few drops at a time through the watering hole and stop when 1 or 2 drops appear inside; water when the meter drops below 50%
- A watering test tube in the outworld for drinking; never water the outworld

Best setup

- A7 Plus ant farm with its pre-installed digital meter; A6 with Meter as the colony grows
- Daylight, never direct sunlight; away from windows, radiators, vibration, speakers and kitchens. Test tube warmth: a heating cable at the cotton stopper end only
- Escape risk: fast, active explorers. PTFE Fluon band around the top inner edge of the outworld lid, reapplied about every 4 weeks (every 2 weeks for 300+ ants)

Good to know

- No sting, but fast and feisty: never handle them
- On arrival: parcel unopened for 5 hours, then 4–5 days of complete rest in its packaging
- Rival colonies hold ritual tournaments; a much stronger colony may raid a weak one for its brood

Read the full care guide **All our ant care sheets**

Best Ants UK care sheet. These notes cover the essentials only: read the full care guide and our ant farm setup guide from A to Z.