BEST ANTS UK | ANT CARE SHEET

Keeping ants since 1997

Beginner

Lasius neoniger

Labour Day ant

> A small brown lawn ant from North America with a big sweet tooth. A close relative of the black garden ant and an easy, rewarding species.

ORIGIN

North America

Lawns, fields, roadsides, pavements

NEST TEMPERATURE

20–26°C

Best at 22–25°C; heater in cool homes

OUTWORLD TEMPERATURE

18°C night, up to 28°C day

By day like the nest or a degree or two cooler

HUMIDITY

Nest 50–70%

Outworld about 50%, never watered

WINTER

Natural winter rest

Steady 10°C only in a hibernation unit, or room temperature

MOVE TO A NEST

10+ workers

15–20 is better

SIZE

Queen 7–9 mm

Workers 3–4 mm, light to mid brown

COLONY

One queen only

Thousands of workers when mature

Food

- **Proteins:** Protein Jelly (keep in the fridge) or Cricket Mash
- **Carbohydrates:** organic Ant Honey or Ant Nectar, far better than sugar water or home-made mixes
- Twice a week, small amounts, outworld only; remove leftovers after 2 days. Live food only for established colonies: scalded, cut in half, never for small colonies.

Water

- Distilled or purified water only. Never tap, rain or bottled mineral water, even boiled (mould and fungus).
- Pipette a few drops through the watering hole; stop when 1–2 drops appear inside. About once a week, or when the meter drops below 50%.
- Never water the outworld; keep it at about 50% humidity.

Best setup

- A7 Plus ant farm kit (built-in digital meter); A6 with Meter once the colony is big
- Advanced Heating System Small 4W under one quarter of the nest, opposite the watering area, set to 24°C (in cool homes)
- Daylight, never direct sunlight; away from windows, radiators, vibrations, speakers and kitchens
- Escape risk: high. PTFE Fluon band on the top inner edge of the outworld lid, reapplied every 2–4 weeks

Good to know

- North American ant: not sold by Best Ants UK, and we don't encourage importing ants
- Named after flights around early September (US Labour Day); offer small sugar drops so tiny workers don't get stuck
- Never release: it is not a UK ant. Can't keep it? See our ant adoption page

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.