Intermediate

Myrmecocystus navajo

Navajo honeypot ant

A small golden-yellow night-foraging honeypot ant from the dry south-western USA. Some workers swell into living nectar stores called repletes.

ORIGIN
South-western USA and northern Mexico
Desert scrub, juniper and pinyon woodland

NEST TEMPERATURE
31–35°C
Heater set to 32°C under a quarter of the nest

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
No rest in year one
From year two: Nov–end Feb at room temperature, heater off

MOVE TO A NEST
10+ workers
15–20 is better

SIZE
Queen 8–9 mm
Workers 3–4 mm, yellow to reddish yellow

COLONY
One queen only
More than 1,000 ants 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, offered at every feed: sugars are vital for the repletes
- 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. A watering test tube in the outworld gives a safe drink.

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 32°C (a must in UK 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, may be illegal or impossible to import to the UK, and we don't encourage importing ants
- Mostly active at night; slow growth at first, repletes appear once the colony is established
- Tiny, fast workers: high escape risk. No sting. Never release: 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.