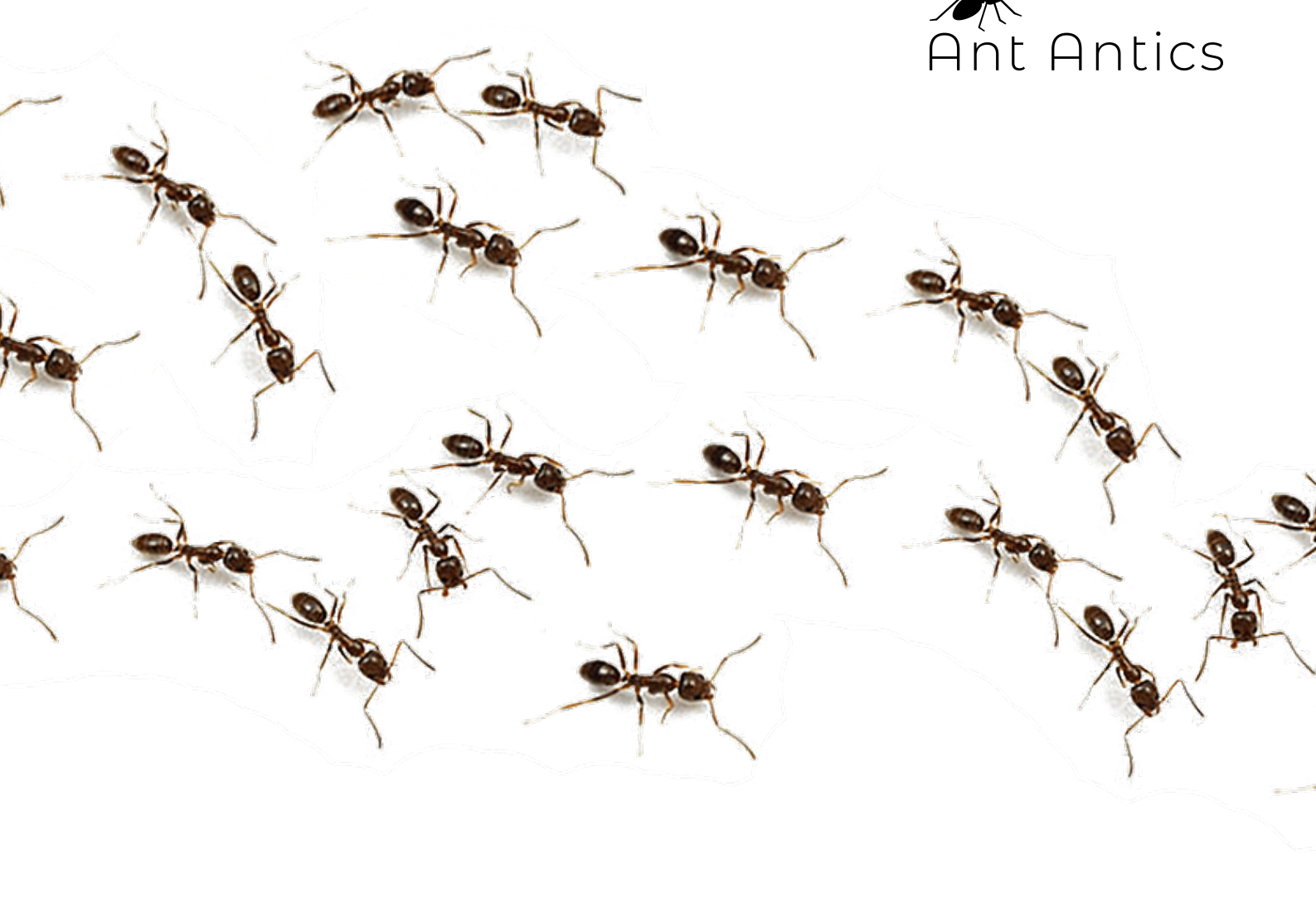




# THE CARPENTER ANT

MINI CARE GUIDE | 2020



## READY TO GO?

### WAITING IS THE FIRST THING.

*That's right, sit back and let your queen wait in the dark for the next hour, nice and quiet so she relaxes after her journey.*

### OPEN AND CHECK HER

*Once calm, carefully open and check her to make sure she made the journey ok. Once happy put her back away at the right temp then check her weekly for workers.*

*If she has workers now, feed her and resume weekly checks until 30+ workers.*

### FIRST BITE

*Once you have workers add a tiny drop of our very own sugar snap. Remove uneaten snap the following week and replace with protein, visa versa.*

### WARM AND SNUGLY

*The temperature of the nest should sit between **24 and 28 degrees, for Asian / Tropical** species and between **20 and 24 degrees for European** species - ideally with a gradient. Exceeding 30 degrees could make your queen infertile and should be avoided.*

### HUMIDITY IS KEY

*Carpenter ants like fairly low humidity in their nest areas, aim for around 50 to 60% in the nest.*



# CARPENTER ANTS

**Carpenter ants**(*Camponotus*spp.) are large 0.76 to 2.54 cm ants indigenous to many forested parts of the world.

They build nests inside wood consisting of galleries chewed out with their mandibles, preferably in dead, damp wood. However, unlike termites, they do not consume wood, discarding a material that resembles sawdust. Sometimes, carpenter ants hollow out sections of trees. They also commonly infest wooden buildings and structures, and are a widespread nuisance and major cause of structural damage. Nevertheless, their ability to excavate wood helps in forest decomposition.

One of the most familiar species associated with human habitation in the United States is the black carpenter ant(*Camponotus pennsylvanicus*). The genus includes over 1,000 species. They also farm aphids. In the farming, the ants protect the aphids while they excrete a sugary fluid called honeydew, which the ants get by stroking the aphids with their antennae.

Carpenter Ants are Rapid growing fierce ants, the nicobarensis for example even has the nickname "Tapper-Ant" because its warning response is a tap even humans can hear.



- *Camponotus aeneopilosus* Mayr, golden tail sugar ant
- *Camponotus amaurus* *Camponotus americanus*
- *Camponotus anderseni*
- *Camponotus atriceps*– Florida carpenter ant
- *Camponotus bishamon*
- *Camponotus chromaiodes*– red carpenter ant
- *Camponotus cinctellus*– shiny sugar ant
- *Camponotus compressus*
- *Camponotus consobrinus*– banded sugar ant
- *Camponotus crassus* Mayr,
- *Camponotus cruentatus*
- *Camponotus daitoensis*
- *Camponotus detritus* Emery, Namib Desert dune ant
- *Camponotus empedocles*– glossy sugar ant
- *Camponotus fellah*
- *Camponotus ferrugineus*– red carpenter ant
- *Camponotus festinatus*
- *Camponotus flavomarginatus*
- *Camponotus floridanus*, Florida carpenter ant
- *Camponotus haroi*
- *Camponotus herculeanus*– Hercules ant
- *Camponotus japonicus*, Japanese carpenter ant
- *Camponotus kaura*
- *Camponotus ligniperda*, a common species in Europe
- *Camponotus modoc* western carpenter ant
- *Camponotus monju*
- *Camponotus nearcticus* smaller carpenter ant
- *Camponotus nigriceps* black-headed sugar ant
- *Camponotus novaeboracensis*
- *Camponotus pennsylvanicus* black carpenter ant
- *Camponotus reburus*
- *Camponotus punctulatus* Tacuru ant
- *Camponotus saundersi*
- *Camponotus schmitzi*, diving ant
- *Camponotus sericeus*
- *Camponotus silvestrii*
- *Camponotus taino*
- *Camponotus tortuganus* Tortugas carpenter ant
- *Camponotus triodiae*
- *Camponotus universitatis*
- *Camponotus vagus*
- *Camponotus variegatus*, Hawaiian carpenter ant



# COLONY INFO

*Carpenter ants vary greatly between species and with so many on hand generalised information is fairly vague in a booklet like this. Overallly they are great scavengers and farmers, with extensive tunnels and satellite nests.*

## Oligogynous or Monogyne?

*Carpenter ants are in debate with experts finding it hard to agree if they are Monogyne or Oligogynous. (single queen or multiple civil queens) This means they have multiple queens in a nest, but they hate eachother. So to avoid domestics and injury they spread out around the nest.*

## Defense and Aggression:

*Carpenter ants are mostly nocturnal and many will not attack live prey, they can be a fairly non combatant ant. Unless threatened where they will quickly rally and ward off intruders. There are species however that will cause hell to small insects.*

## Colony Growth

*Your colony will grow slowly at first, do not be tempted to check on them more than once a week as stress could cause your queen to eat her eggs and it will delay you months. Some species are slower than others and some are incredibly fast at growth, check you species product page for info on yours.*

*When you do see various sizes of brood you can begin to predict when they will hatch out.*

*Egg 15 to 20 days*

*Larvae 15 to 24 days*

*Pupae 20 to 34 days*

## **Total Egg to Adult 6 to 12 weeks**

*This is true of smaller species being towards the lower range and larger species towards the higher range.*

*Age: Queen ants can live up to 25 years old with workers ranging from 3-6 months for the nanitics to 1-2 years for adults.*

## FIRST WORKERS

*Your first generation of workers (around 7 to 10) are known as nanitics, these are around half size and are the life of the colony. Upon hatching the queen has used all of her stored fat from wing muscles and gaster. These nanitics dig out and find food for the 2nd generation.*

*If they die, your queen may be in trouble.*



Ant Antics



*They joy of Carpenter ants is that they are really not all that fussy on what they eat. They are experts in farming Aphids and being nocturnal they pick off dead insects on the forest floor.*

*Food quantities will vary significantly with colony size. Our advice is to place food in the outworld and remove un-eaten food after 3 days. Repeat every 3 days. Use this to judge colony requirements.*

### Aphids

*if you are in a position to offer them in a natural setup then you can place them in and watch your ants defend and farm them for their sweet secretion. As a plant dies, place in a fresh one and you will see your ants move their "cattle" to the fresh one to continue their lives.*

### Sugars

*Its really simple to do this, you can use a 1 to 1 mix of sugar and water heated until dissolved. or you can feed them small pieces of fruit to gain extra nutrients.*

*We also sell our home made, organic Sugar Snap which will be sure to give your colony an energy boost filled with sugars, B-Vitamins and Electrolytes.*

### Protein

*Proteins are needed by all ant species, carpenters are no exception. With such fast colony growth rates the growing young need lots of protein to hatch. This can be done using insects (if using your*

*own meal-worms, crickets e.t.c*

*please dispatch them before feeding)*

*OR by using specially formulated feeds like our Protein Shake.*

*and Protein Jelly.*



Ant Antics

# FEEDING



# 30+ WORKERS

*You have done it. Reaching 30 workers is the pivotal moment in an antkeepers progress. Keeping a colony running with patience will now pay off. You can look at introducing them into your very own nest and ourworld setup.*

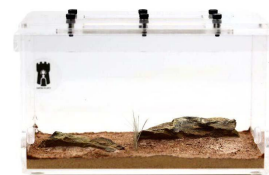
*Our advice will always be a natural setup, however these are the most costly to make and require the most maintenance. Carpenters love chewing, a dead half log is perfect for them.*

*However, if this is not right for you they will also be quite at home in an acrylic nest or a sealed cork nest. Avoid using wood unless it is in a tank as they will chew out of it in no time, your carpenters are strong and chomping through it will not phase them at all.*

*These ants LOVE a log in the base of a tank.*

## INTRODUCTION TO SETUP

*Its easy, connect their test tube or place it in the outworld and leave the daylight on it. They will find themselves a lovely new home. Dont rush them, dont force them out with light or heat. They will move when they are happy too, it could be days or weeks before they are ready!*



From top to bottom. Acrylic Nest, Sandwich Nest, Digging nest/outworld, Outworld





# TIPS

## **Moving Test Tube**

Sometimes you may find yourself needing to move their test tube to a clean one, only do this if completely required (i.e the old one had mold growing). To change the tube simply make a new one with water/cotton wool and attach it to the old one using a plaster to hold them closed loosely. A plaster is breathable, do not use tape.

The you need to allow your queen to make the move on her own, this can be helped by putting the old tube away from your heat source and by covering the new tube so its dark. The old tube exposed to light will no longer be the best choice. REMEMBER, your queen will not be forced, it could take weeks to move, just be patient.

## **Hibernation**

Not all Carpenter ants will need to Hibernate. If they are from the tropics for example you can enjoy them all year round. Check the product page on [antantics.co.uk](http://antantics.co.uk) and double check if they need to or not.

## **Nesting**

When choosing a nest, make sure it is the correct size for your colony. Too big and your queen will not feel safe and will slow production. Dead wood is great because the nest is dug out perfectly for the size of the colony by their own workers. However, Using acrylic or Ytong is absolutely fine when you choose the correct size for them.

## **Hydration**

Add water to the nest on the same day each week, this will help you remember and not run the risk of a dry nest. Carpenter ants need to drink LOTS of water, a byproduct of chewing all that wood!, keep their water drinker full at all times.

KEEP ANTS OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN



Ant Antics

# HELP?

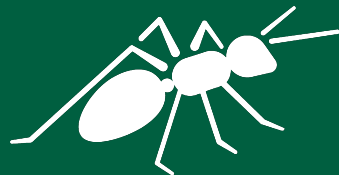
For help and support, visit our website [www.antantics.co.uk](http://www.antantics.co.uk) where you will find useful advice and products to help you.

## WE STOCK

Queens, Nests, Outworlds, Food, Feeders, Decorations, Sand and so much more!

*It is **AGAINST** the **LAW** to release non-native species of ant into the wild. **BEFORE** you open the door to release them visit [antantics.co.uk/unwanted-colonies](http://antantics.co.uk/unwanted-colonies)*

*A Queen ant can live up to 30 years - Buy responsibly!*



# Ant Antics

**WWW.ANTANTICS.CO.UK**