



User manual of formicaries : LUBI / LUBI NEXT STEP / LUBI MAX + ANTS MESSOR BARBARUS / ANTS LASIUS NIGER + BASIC DECOR ITEMS

We offer 3 variants / sizes of the formicarium: Lubi, Lubi Next Step, Lubi Max.

The best breeding results will be obtained at:

For LUBI formicarium:

min. amount of ants to be settled to the formicarium is: the queen plus 15 ants.

the maximum number of ants that a formicarium can accommodate is: the queen plus 500 ants.

For LUBI NEXT STEP formicarium:

min. amount of ants to be settled to the formicarium is : queen plus 30 ants.

the maximum number of ants that a formicarium can accommodate is: a queen plus 1,000 ants.

For LUBI MAX formicarium:

min. amount of ants to be settled to the formicarium is : queen plus 200 ants

the maximum number of ants that a formicarium can accommodate is: the queen plus 2,500 ants

If the number of purchased ant workers is smaller than the one mentioned above, the colony should be grown in a test tube or in a smaller nest.

One of the most common breeding mistakes is a placing too small colony to the formicarium that is too big for them!

All versions of Lubi formicarium have side plugs (to able You to connect an additional arena / other formicarium) as well as ventilation plugs (on the top of the cover)

Preparation of the formicarium:

Before letting the ants into the formicarium, please read the following points:

1. Carefully unpack the Kit, remove the top glass of the formarium:



2. Arrange sand and decor items in the arena part by your own way.

3. Water the gypsum part- the method of irrigation is shown on the film:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bra5d9Z4s3Y>
So, You need to place the attached color litter on the side of the gypsum nest and pour water on the litter:
For the formicarium Lubi and Lubi Next step: once a week- 5 ml of water.
For the formicarium LUBI Max: once a week 10 ml of water.

The point is to make the side of the gypsum nest hydrated (only 20% of the nest).

Gypsum can not be hydrated along the entire length, because there is a risk of germinating seeds carried by the ants to the gypsum chambers.

At the first hydration of the socket, the water slowly seeps in.

During the nest hydrations, the water will drip faster.

Water gypsum part systematically - on average, every 7-10 days (it depends on the season and temperature)

It is necessary to observe the color of the gypsum (the gypsum shade has to be only slightly changed)

4. Let the ants into the formicarium putting the opened test tube on the arena.
Ants should not be stressed. They should feel that they can go to a better, moistened space and after some time (sooner or later) they will move themselves to a new formicarium.
The resettlement process can take up to 2 weeks.
Usually this it takes within 1-3 days.
5. Enjoy observation :)

Feeding of ants *Lasius Niger*:

1. In case of feeding the small ant colonies with **protein foods** (mealworm, crickets, cockroaches), cut the insect into 3 parts and serve the ants with the middle part of the insect.
If you have a larger colony, it can eat the whole insect.
We serve insects once a week or twice a week depending on the size of the colony.
Mealworm can be stored in a fridge / freezer. Defrost before serving.
2. Feeding with **honey, egg yolk, dried hemoglobin, dried root, dry basic food, bee pollen**:
dried food disperse in water and pour a small drop on the food dish.

Feeding of ants *Messor barbarus*:

1. Feeding with **seeds** - we pour into the back part of the formicarium (on the arena)

Seeds that like Messory are grains of grass, linseed, poppy and others.

Attention ! Do not give too much grain to the ants. The little bag you buy in our store should last for 3 months (formicarium Likes) If the ants have too many seeds, they do not manage to make them into ant-heavy bread and play with them.

2. **Protein food**, such as mealworm, crickets, and cockroaches - cut the insect into 3 parts and serve the ants with the middle part of the insect.

If you have a larger colony, it can eat the whole insect.

We serve insects once a week or twice a week depending on the size of the colony.

Mealworm can be stored in a fridge / freezer. Defrost before serving.

Messors do not eat honey!

Formicarium care:

1. Ensure moisture in the gypsum nest.
The description is a few points higher in the section "Preparing of the formicarium"
Without watering of the formicarium the ants can perish!
2. It is necessary to collect the food remainings.
Not cleaning the formicarium threatens to develop mold or other microorganisms.
3. Formicarium can not be kept exposed on the sun or on the windowsill or on any other place stressful for the ants.

More about ant breeding:

1) Instructions:

<http://www.antcenter.com.pl/pl/i/Instrukcje/17>

2) ANTCENTER channel on YT: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCONk6KmNkk6rvKmRWfL6m9w>

3) Breeding tips by phone: 728 215 422 (between 14-16 on business days)

4) AntCenter forum on FaceBook.

5) Blog about ants: <http://swiatmrowek.pl/blog/>

Remember that animals mean responsibility !

We wish you a successful breeding

AntCenter.com.pl