

Ants

A CAROLINA™ CareSheet

Care and handling of harvester ants

Harvester ants are typically used with ant farms. Most ant farms include a coupon that you use to request shipment of the ants.

Before introducing the ants into the ant farm/habitat, place them into a refrigerator for 5–10 minutes to chill them into immobility. Do not place them in a freezer, as extremely cold temperatures will kill them.

Roll a piece of paper into the shape of a funnel. Remove ants from the refrigerator, and pour them through the funnel into the ant farm. **CAUTION:** *Do not touch the ants, as they are able to bite and deliver a painful sting.*

It may take 12–24 hours for the ants to become acclimated to their new home. Although their activity level is high, their nutritional demands are low. Feed your ants the food included with your ant farm. As a supplement, offer a small piece of fruit or vegetable every 2–3 days. Remove any uneaten food after 2 days to prevent mold from accumulating. Provide your ants with a few drops of water every day, and keep them in a cool room between 16–21° C (60–70° F). If you have a gel-based ant farm, the gel provides all the food and water needed by the ants. With proper care, harvester ants will live 2–4 weeks.

Care and handling of wood (carpenter) ants

Carolina's wood ants are normally used as a food source for other animals. Ants supplied by Carolina can be stored for up to 2 weeks in the refrigerator. Check daily until ready for use, and pay special attention to the moisture content of the culture. If the culture is too damp, use a fine mesh screen as a temporary cover to allow moisture to escape. Remove any mold; however, if there is excessive mold, move the ants to a fresh container with a very small piece of potato or apple for food and moisture. If the culture seems too dry, add damp paper, cotton, or sponge to the container.

Wood ants forage for food at night and typically feed on sources of protein and sugar. Their natural foods include aphid honeydew, other insects (living and dead), plant juices, and food products containing fats, meats, or sugar. They also eat syrup, honey, jelly, pieces of sweetened cereal, or a sugar-water solution on a sponge. Remove uneaten food before it molds. Wood ants do not eat wood, although they will tunnel through it.

FAQ's

Why didn't I get any queen ants?

We ship only the sterile worker ants. This eliminates the possibility of establishing an ant species in an area where it is not native.

What are some foods that I can feed my ants?

Ants will accept a variety of fruit, grain, and plant foods, but avoid animal meats, fats, and oils.

Why are our carpenter ants not active?

If you are refrigerating them, the cold makes them less active. Carpenter ants are also more active at night.

In nature, that is when they forage for food.

Problems? We hope not, but if so contact us. We want you to have a good experience.

Orders and replacements: 1-800-334-5551 then select Customer Service

Technical Support and Questions: caresheets@carolina.com



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