

Pest Profile



Photo credit: April Nobile, California Academy of Sciences
(Specimen CASENT0005403; from <https://www.antweb.org>)

Common Name: Cornfield ant

Scientific Name: *Lasius neoniger*

Order and Family: Order Hymenoptera; Family Formicidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		
Adult	Workers range from 3 – 5 mm	Workers are dark in color with large eyes. They have erect hairs on the antennae and a one-part waist. These ants lack a stinger. Colonies have one queen (monogynous).
Pupa (if applicable)		

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing

Host(s): Cornfield ants are omnivorous, eating a variety of both plants and animals. These ants especially tend corn root aphids for honey dew and also eat the aphids.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults):

This cornfield ant tends corn root aphids, storing the eggs in winter and returning them to the corn plants in the spring. They may also be a pest on wheat and cotton.

Because these ants nest in open areas, they are pests of golf courses and lawns.

This species is found in southern Canada, the continental USA, and Europe.

References:

Klotz, J., Hansen, L., Pospichil, R. & Rust, M. (2008). *Urban ants of North America and Europe: identification, biology, and management*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Lasius alienus. (2011). Retrieved from <http://www.schoolofants.org/species/1852>

Lasius neoniger. (2019). Retrieved from: https://www.antwiki.org/wiki/Lasius_neoniger