

## Pest Profile



**Photo credit:** April Nobile, California Academy of Sciences  
(Specimen CASENT0178774; from <https://www.antweb.org>)

**Common Name:** Small black ant (black garden ant)

**Scientific Name:** *Lasius niger*

**Order and Family:** Order Hymenoptera; Family Formicidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		
Adult	Workers range from 3 – 5 mm  Queens range from 7 – 10 mm  Males range from 3 – 5 mm	The workers are dark brown to black in color with slightly lighter thorax and legs. They have large eyes, numerous hairs over the body, and a one-part waist. These ants lack a stinger.  Queens are dark in color and have wings. Colonies have one queen (monogynous).  Males are similar to workers but less hairy. The males have wings.
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

**Host(s):** The small black ant is omnivorous and a generalist forager but does tend aphids, which feed on plant juices and plant nectaries. The small black ant may also forage seeds.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):**

The small black ant builds its nests in a variety of places, often under stones or pavement and near plants where they tend aphids. They are frequent pests of lawns and gardens.

This species is found worldwide and is found throughout the USA and Canada.

**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 niger*. (2019). Retrieved from: [https://www.antwiki.org/wiki/Lasius\\_niger](https://www.antwiki.org/wiki/Lasius_niger)

*Lasius niger* (black garden ant). (2019). Retrieved from: <https://www.antkeepers.com/ant-species/lasius-niger/>