

Novomessor Care Sheet

Species: *N. albisetosus* and *N. cockereli*



Ant Gear
antgear.com

This care sheet provides guidance for keeping Novomessor harvester ants, a fun and engaging species to observe. These medium-large ants have long legs and are exceptionally quick and aggressive during mealtime. They are particularly entertaining to watch as they chase down fruit flies and other small insects. This species of harvester ants grow in numbers rapidly, making them great for kids.



Growth and Diet

To promote fast growth, daily feedings, seeds, and a heat cable are recommended. However, to slow growth, you can do the opposite -- skip the heat cable, remove seeds, and feed them less frequently. Their main diet consists of mealworms, cricket pieces, Dubia roaches, and fruit flies. For sweets, options include Sunburst, hummingbird nectar, fruits, and sugar water. Supplemental seeds like crushed sunflower seeds, dandelion, and bluegrass are favored but can create a messy outworld if not cleaned regularly.

Main Diet

- Mealworms
- Cricket pieces (frozen OK)
- Dubia roaches cut in half
- Fruit Flies

Sweets

- [Sunburst](#)
- Hummingbird Nectar
- Sugar Water
- Apples

Supplemental Seeds

- Crushed sunflower seeds
- Dandelion
- Bluegrass
- Try something new!

Housing

The housing setup requires a nest for the queen, eggs, larvae, pupae and workers to live. It also includes a connected foraging outworld, preferably oversized to accommodate their active foraging behavior.



Escape Prevention



These harvester ants are skilled climbers and may try to escape, so fluon should be applied bi-weekly to prevent their escape. Fluon is a liquid that dries slippery so the ants cannot crawl through it. Application instructions are included with every purchase of fluon on [antgear.com](#)