

BUILD AN ANT FARM



You will need

2 jars with lids (or plastic bottles will work)- one smaller that fits inside the bigger one. Soil and sand mixture (crumbly consistency)



1

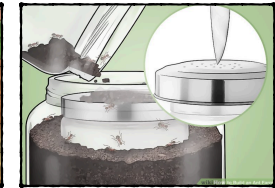
Place the smaller jar inside the bigger one - you can use glue on the bottom to keep it stable. The smaller jar acts as a space blocker so that the ants make their tunnels and nests on the edge so we can see them, and not in the middle.



2

Prepare your soil and sand mixture - it needs to be loose and moist (not wet) and if getting ants from your garden try and use soil they would naturally use.

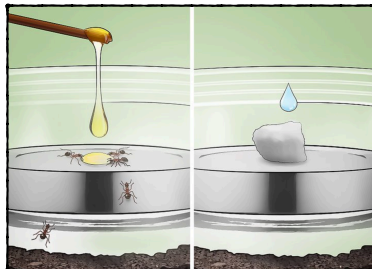
Pot the soil in the gap between the 2 jars - make sure it isn't tightly packed as the ants need to be about to burrow and don't like compact soil. Leave a gap of about 1 inch at the top to stop the ants climbing up



3

FIND SOME ANTS - try and track an ant back to its home. Take a different jam jar with you to collect them in

- If you want your ants to reproduce (not just tunnel) you need to find a queen. It might be best to order some on line for this rather than destroy a natural colony
- If you are happy just watching the tunnelling then collect some ants that you can see on the surface. Worker ants have a natural life cycle of 3-4 weeks so be aware that they will die within this period in your jars -or release them back to their colony after you have seen their tunnels
- Make sure you have some holes in the lid to let air in... but not too big that it lets ants out



4

Ants love sugar! Feed them every few days with a drop of honey, or place a bit of apple in the top. Don't leave food too long or it will go mouldy and then mess up the ant farm

Don't give them meat or cooked food

Double check what type of ant you have (ID link in the blog) and make sure you feed it the correct food



5

DO NOT...

- Shake your jars
 - Place the jars by the window - it will get too hot, plus the ants don't like sunlight
- Just make sure to have a consistent temperature



6

Cover your jars with black card or thick cloth to keep the light out... check every few days what is going on and when you have seen enough let the ants go back to where you found them