

Painted Lady Butterfly

A CAROLINA™ CareSheet

Maintaining and Culturing Larvae

Place the cups in indirect light or room light. **Note:** *Do not place cups in direct sunlight, which can overheat the cups and kill the larvae.* Kept at room temperature, larvae mature in 5 to 10 days. Then they climb to the top of the cup, attach to its tissue paper cover, and molt into a chrysalis (a type of pupa). Leave the cup undisturbed for at least 1 to 2 days or until the chrysalises darken, which indicates that they have hardened. (You must have a butterfly cage prepared at this point.) Open the cup and remove the paper with the hardened chrysalises attached. Pin or tape the paper to the inside of the cage, to either the top or side, so that the chrysalises hang in a natural position. A soft-sided cage, such as our Carolina™ Butterfly Sanctuary (item #674291) for up to 35 butterflies or Amazing Bugs™ Habitat (item #144092) for up to 8 butterflies, works best. You can also make a cage from a box or other materials.

Feeding

Butterflies need sugar to power their flight muscles. They do not require other food. To make food for your adult butterflies, dissolve 2 teaspoons of sugar in ••• cup of water. Keep the solution refrigerated when not in use. Replace the sugar-water solution every other day. With proper nutrition, adult butterflies generally live for 1 to 2 weeks, sometimes as long as 3 weeks. **Note:** *Do not put an open container of liquid food in your butterfly habitat. Butterflies will fall into it and drown.* You can make a feeder from a small, empty plastic bottle or vial with a lid.

- a. Clean the container and lid with a mild solution of household bleach and water (1 part bleach in 9 parts water).
- b. Rinse the bottle **thoroughly** with water, and fill it with sugar-water solution.
- c. Roll up a piece of paper towel to make a wick. Punch a hole in the bottle's lid large enough to easily insert the wick.
- d. Dip the wick into the sugar-water solution and then squeeze out the excess.
- e. Insert the wick into the hole in the lid, leaving approximately •••" extending out the top of the lid. Place the lid on the bottle.

For more information contact:

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