

Care Guide

Painted Lady Butterfly



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Caring for Your Painted Lady Butterfly 5-Larvae Culture (item #144005)

or

Painted Lady Butterfly Larvae Mini Cup Set (item #144024)

Each cup contains food to grow the larvae (caterpillars) for 5 to 7 days until they reach maturity. Do not open the cup, as mold and bacteria could begin to grow on the food. After the larvae are mature, they will climb to the top of the cup and form chrysalises that will hang from the material covering the cup.



About 3 days after the last larva forms a chrysalis, open the cup and remove the material with the chrysalises attached.



Pin or tape the material to the side or top of a flight cage. Adult butterflies will emerge in 7 to 10 days. Prepare a feeder and sugar-water feeding solution. Dissolve 2 teaspoons of granulated sugar in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of water. Pour the feeding solution into a shallow dish containing crumpled paper towels or cotton balls that cover the bottom of the dish; this prevents the adults from falling into the solution and drowning. Replace the sugar-water solution every other day. Refrigerate the solution when not in use. Adult butterflies typically live about 2 to 3 weeks.



Caring for Your Painted Lady Culture Larvae/Food Set

(item #144070 or #144076)

For the larvae to survive to maturity, you must divide them into separate containers.

Use our Culture Cup Set (item #144068), which comes with 1-oz cups, lids, and tissue paper.



Prepare the cups as shown below. When distributing the food, do not make it more than $\frac{1}{4}$ " deep. Use a small brush to transfer 1 to 2 larvae into each cup and trim away excess tissue paper from around the edges.

Care for the individual cups as explained on page 1, "Caring for Your Painted Lady Butterfly 5-Larvae Culture (item #144005) or Painted Lady Butterfly Larvae Mini Cup Set (item #144024)."



Frequently Asked Questions

Why do the larvae chew the paper at the top of the cup?

The larvae are expressing their natural instinct to disperse before pupating and chew on plant matter. You can replace chewed paper with fresh tissue paper, so that when the larvae form their chrysalises, you will be able to attach them to the habitat.

What are the materials that collect in the bottom of the cup?

Some of the material is frass, which is caterpillar waste. The other darker material is exoskeleton left behind as the larvae grow and develop. Larvae shed their exoskeleton several times over the course of their life.

What do I do if a chrysalis falls down or is not attached to the paper?

Immediately remove any chrysalises that fall into the food, as the pupae will die if exposed to moisture in the food or frass for an extended period of time. Remove all debris from the chrysalis and place it on a paper towel inside of the flight cage.



Still Have Questions?

- **Visit our website for more resources:**
www.carolina.com/butterflies
- **Call us:** 800.334.5551
- **Email us:** living_tech_support@carolina.com



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