



# Bill's Large Butterfly Larvae Kit



PO Box 700 Rutland, MA 01543 508-886-6570

www.butterflynursery.com

Thank you for your recent purchase of BILL'S LARGE BUTTERFLY LARVAE KIT. We think you will enjoy working with the larvae and be fascinated with their metamorphosis into beautiful butterflies! NOTE: We have supplied you with extra larvae and food. You can raise the extras in the cup that your larvae come in.

The Amount of Time it will take to grow your butterflies depends entirely on the consistent temperatures of the space you keep them in. At 65F it will take 25-30 days to become butterflies. At 75F it will take 18-21 days. At 85F (proper humidity is important at higher temperatures) it will take 10-15 days. **DO NOT USE HEAT LAMPS**, they are too drying!

- ▶ | ◀ Your Larvae (caterpillars) come in 2 containers with approximately 20 larvae in each (includes extra).
- ▶ | ◀ Larvae Diet (enough food for 32 larvae plus any extra).
- ▶ | ◀ 4 cups that the food and larvae will be put in.
- ▶ | ◀ 4 lids that keep the larvae from crawling out of the container!
- ▶ | ◀ 4 filter papers, larvae transfer brush, and spoon for the diet.

## INSTRUCTIONS

- ♥ **Let the larvae eat and grow bigger in the containers they came in.** Keep the larvae in the containers and DO NOT transfer them into their growing cups until they are approximately 5/8" long. [-----]  
**The growing cups DO NOT need "air holes".**
- ♥ When they are ready to transfer, divide the cup of diet into 5 equal parts. Divide each of the 5 equal parts in half and put 1/2 of the diet in a clump on one side (not bottom) of the growing cup and the other 1/2 of the diet in a clump on the other side of the growing cup. Transfer 8 larvae into the cup. Place the filter paper on the top of the cup and place the lid on the cup very securely. Repeat with the other 4 growing cups. The caterpillar frass (droppings) will fall to the bottom of the cup. There is no need to remove the droppings in any of the cups.
- ♥ The Extra Larvae can go in the shipping containers that all the larvae came in. Don't forget to put the appropriate amount of food in the container with them.
- ♥ **The growing cups DO NOT need "air holes".** The larvae will create their own environment in the growing cups. They have all the air they need in the cups. Put each of the cups a safe place away from any direct sunlight. Daylight is OK **BUT NEVER IN THE SUN and NEVER ON THE WINDOW SILL.** **Keep out of drafts and away from drying heat sources.** Do not disturb the cup after you have found a safe place for it. **You will not open the cup until 3 days after ALL the Larvae have formed their chrysalises.**
- ♥ After all the chrysalises have formed (most will form on the lids, occasionally some will form in the food dish). **DO NOT open the cup until 3 days after the last one makes its chrysalis.** This lets them "harden off".
- ♥ Any of the chrysalises (some may have formed on the bottom of the food dish) can be placed on the doily in the bottom of the Net Castle or on a soft paper towel. **The Chrysalises will emergence successfully from the laying down position.** **They do not need to be hanging.**

- ♥ If you have Bill's Butterfly School Kit with Emergence Board, use a glue-stick, piece of tape, or a pin to attach the filter paper (with the chrysalises attached) to the emergence board and place in Bill's Butterfly Net Castle at an angle so the chrysalises are hanging--a bit like an earring! The board is numbered so that you can identify and keep track of the chrysalises.
- ♥ \*NOTE: If you do not have Bill's Butterfly Net Castle you will need some sort of netted environment that will allow air circulation all around the pupae. The loose pupae will need netting, of some sort, to climb up onto so they will be able to hang, expand their wings and dry their wings when they emerge.
- ♥ **Mist chrysalises with water several times a day (especially if it is a dry environment).** You can mist the chrysalises right through the Net Castle netting. **DO NOT** leave the chrysalises laying in a pool of water. **\*Most schools are typically warm & dry and it is very important that the chrysalises do not dry out.** Most deformities in adult butterfly wings are a result of the chrysalises drying out.
- ♥ Butterflies emerge! **The red liquid is merconium. It is excess fluid that was not used during wing formation which they expel during the 2-3 days following emergence.** **DO NOT** mist butterflies that have just emerged. Allow them to hang and dry their wings for 2-3 hours before misting the butterflies. The butterflies will not be very active and will not be hungry for the first 1-2 days. They will uncurl their proboscis and drink the water collected on the netting of the Net Castle when they are ready to.
- ♥ We highly recommend that you feed your butterflies **FIERCE GRAPE Gatorade**. They also like the Orange and Tropical Punch flavors. You can feed them a 10% solution of sugar water if but it does not provide the minerals and nutrients that the Gatorade will give them. Replace solution or Gatorade every other day with fresh liquid.
- ♥ Fill the feeding dish that comes with the Net Castle about 2/3rds full with Gatorade and place in the center of the Net Castle or container. You can remove the emergence board from the Net Castle after all the butterflies have emerged.
- ♥ \*NOTE: You can also use a shallow saucer filled with cotton balls. Pour the Gatorade over the cotton balls just till they are fully saturated and there is a little liquid left in the bottom of the saucer.

### Basic Facts about the Painted Lady Butterfly (Vanessa Cardui)

The Painted Lady Butterfly has a wingspan of 1.75" to 2.75" and a life span of approximately 2-3 weeks. The tops of the wings are white, orange, brown & black. The undersides are tan, blue and purple. Favorite Flowers are: Aster, Cosmos, Thistle and Button Bush. The "host" plants (plants the caterpillars like to eat) are Thistle, Mallow and Hollyhock. They are indigenous to the entire continental United States.

**Butterflies & Blueberries, Inc. 508-886-6570 [www.butterfllynursery.com](http://www.butterfllynursery.com)**

Copyright 1999-2013

