

# Small Butterfly Larvae Kit and Refill Kit

## **Keep Caterpillars & Chrysalises Out of ALL Direct Sunlight DO NOT open Cups with Larvae in them**

The Amount of Time it will take to grow your butterflies depends entirely on keeping the temperature consistent in the area. 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!

- ▶ | ◀ You will receive 5-8 Painted Lady Larvae (we always send 8).
- ▶ | ◀ Four individual cups with Two Larvae (caterpillars) in each and enough diet to grow them to chrysalis.
- ▶ | ◀ Each cup will have a filter paper under the lid. The filter paper will control any condensation. They do not need air holes. Usually, the chrysalises will form on the filter paper making it easy to attach them to the inside of the Net.
- ▶ | ◀ **The Larvae Diet does NOT contain peanuts or any other nuts!**

## INSTRUCTIONS

- ♥ The larvae will create their own environment in the growing cups. There is no need to remove the droppings in any of the cups. DO NOT open a cup until 3 days after the LAST Larva in that cup forms its chrysalis.
- ♥ Place all the cups a safe distance 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 cups after you have found a safe place for them.
- ♥ Sometimes the larvae will start to eat through the filter paper just before they make their chrysalises. Most of the chrysalises will form on the filter paper but occasionally some will form on the lid or in the food dish. Do NOT open a cup until 3 days after the LAST Larva, in that cup, forms its chrysalis. This lets them “harden off”.
- ♥ It is best to “hang” the Chrysalises that have formed on the filter paper. Pin the filter paper to the sides of the Net. If you purchased an Emergence Board, cut away most of the filter paper around each chrysalis and pin or tack the filter to the Emergence Board.
- ♥ Some chrysalises may form on the bottom of the food dish. They can be placed on the bottom of the Net on a soft paper towel. The Chrysalises will emergence successfully from the laying down position. They do not need to be hanging.

- ♥ **\*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 the result of the chrysalises drying out.
- ♥ **Mist chrysalises with water once or twice a day (especially if it is a dry environment) UNTIL THEY START TO TURN DARK- then STOP Misting.** You can mist the chrysalises right through the Net Castle netting. **DO NOT leave the chrysalises laying in a pool of water.** Do not put the Butterfly Feeding Dish into the Net until 2 days after the Butterflies emerge.
- ♥ **Butterflies emerge! The red liquid is meconium. 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.** Allow them to hang and dry their wings for 2-3 hours.
- ♥ 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 you spray on the sides of the Net when they are ready to.
- ♥ Pour Fruit Punch or Orange Gatorade into your Feeding Dish and paint or mist water on the sides of the net everyday. Refresh the Gatorade every other day. Otherwise, it will get syrupy and too thick for the butterflies to sip through their proboscis.
- ♥ Butterflies taste with their feet so they will land on the Feeding Dish and stay to drink. Watch their proboscis uncurl to feed! They will be most active during the morning and on sunny days. You can mist them every day once they have become butterflies. Note: Their normal lifespan is 2-3 weeks.
- ♥ You may notice the female Painted Lady butterflies laying tiny turquoise dots on your net. They typically mate in the late afternoon and early evening (5pm-8pm). They will lay the eggs in the morning to early afternoon (10am-2pm). They will be most active on sunny days. They become very quiet on cloudy and stormy days.

**Questions? Call us at 603-715-1015**

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