



**InsectLore**  
**.com**

Growing  
Butterflies  
Since 1969



**It's Time  
To Grow!**

Welcome to the  
fascinating life cycle  
of the Painted Lady  
Butterfly!



**Caterpillar Quick Guide**

# Frequently Asked Questions



## Where can I observe an instructional video of my Insect Lore Live Butterfly Garden?

Please visit

<http://www.youtube.com/user/InsectLoreProducts>

## What are the most important steps I can take to ensure the survival of my caterpillars?

- Try to have your caterpillars sent to an indoor mailbox, where temperatures are controlled, rather than to an outdoor mailbox, where temperatures can be extreme.
- Remove your Cup of Caterpillars™ from the shipping box immediately.
- Do not expose your caterpillars to dramatic changes in temperature.
- If temperatures vary greatly from daytime to nighttime, place a towel over the Cup of Caterpillars™ in the evening.
- Do not place your Cup of Caterpillars™ in a window or in direct sunlight.
- Remove ALL silk and frass from the chrysalides before transferring them to the butterfly habitat. If this step is ignored, the butterfly may become entangled in the silk upon emergence and its wings may be deformed as a result.

## How long is the butterfly life cycle?

Approximately 3 weeks. Females lay eggs 5 to 7 days after emerging from the chrysalis. The eggs hatch after 3 days. Caterpillars emerge from the eggs and eat for 10 to 12 days before forming chrysalides. Adult butterflies emerge from the chrysalides in 7 to 10 days.

## Why are my caterpillars inactive?

Like you, caterpillars need to rest and digest their food. But just wait! Your caterpillars will become more and more active as they eat the food at the bottom of the cup. Eating and growing is what they do best!

## Can I handle my Cup of Caterpillars™?

**Yes!** You may handle your cup, but always be very gentle. Do not disturb the cup at all during the 3 days your caterpillars are pupating (changing into chrysalides). And never shake your Cup of Caterpillars™!

## What does the word “larva” mean?

“Larva” is another word for “caterpillar”!  
“Larvae” is the plural form of “larva”.

## Should I provide food for my caterpillars?

**No.** Your caterpillars arrive with all the food they need to grow into healthy butterflies. Once your butterflies have emerged from the chrysalis stage, feed them with fruit, nectar (sugar water), or nectar bearing flowers.

## Why are my chrysalides wiggling?

This is a natural instinct to ward off predators.

## A chrysalis fell to the bottom of the cup.

### What should I do?

Gently scoop the fallen chrysalis with a spoon and remove all the silk and frass. Then, lay the chrysalis on a piece of paper towel on the floor of the butterfly habitat, near the inside netting. The butterfly should emerge there safely.

## What is the red liquid I see when my butterflies emerge?

**Don't worry!** Butterflies naturally expel a red liquid called meconium when they emerge from their chrysalides. Meconium is the waste product left over after metamorphosis.

## I'd like to experience butterfly metamorphosis again.

### Can I get more caterpillars?

**Yes!** Visit [InsectLore.com](http://InsectLore.com) to order your next Cup of Caterpillars™.

**Visit [InsectLore.com](http://InsectLore.com) for more Butterfly FAQs!**

## 1. Grow your Caterpillars

Your caterpillars arrive with all the nutritious food they need to grow into healthy butterflies. They may seem tiny and inactive at first, but please give them 48 hours to acclimate to their new surroundings. Soon your caterpillars will be eating and growing before your very eyes!



### Here's What To Do:

- Handle the Cup of Caterpillars™ gently.
- Place the cup upright, indoors, and away from sunlight or drafts.
- Keep the lid on the cup.
- Do not touch your caterpillars.
- Maintain a temperature of 68 to 75 degrees.
- Watch carefully! Your caterpillars will shed their exoskeletons several times as they grow!

## 2. See them become Chrysalides

After 7 to 10 days, your caterpillars will climb to the top of the cup and attach themselves to the underside of the lid. There they will hang in a “J” shape, shed their exoskeletons one last time, and harden into chrysalides.



### Here's What To Do:

- Wait 3 days for your caterpillars to fully harden into chrysalides.
- Do not handle the cup during this important time.
- Remember, an amazing transformation is taking place inside!
- Prepare your Butterfly Habitat.

## 3. Move your Chrysalides to the Butterfly Habitat

**Step 1.**  
Fold center tab up.



**Step 2.**  
Fold in both ends and assemble the box.



**Step 3.**  
Insert lid with chrysalides into slot.



### Here's What To Do:

- Open the cup carefully.
- Gently remove ALL silk strands and frass surrounding the chrysalides.
- Follow directions to assemble Chrysalis Station™.
- Place the Chrysalis Station™ in the habitat.

*If you have the Deluxe Chrysalis Station™, remove ALL silk strands and frass surrounding the chrysalides and insert the lid with the chrysalides as shown on the back cover of this booklet.*

## 4. Watch the birth of your Butterflies!

After 7 - 10 days, your Painted Lady Butterflies will emerge from the chrysalides. At first the butterflies' wings will be soft and crumpled. The butterflies will slowly stretch and force blood into their veins to strengthen their wings.



### Here's What To Do:

- Do not disturb the habitat while your butterflies are emerging.
- Do not touch the newly emerged butterflies.
- Wait 2 or 3 hours (to allow your butterflies' wings to dry and harden) before feeding.

## 5. Feed your Butterflies with nectar or fruit

Butterflies drink nectar with their long proboscises.



### Here's What To Do:

**Nectar:** Mix 3 teaspoons of sugar into 1 cup of water and stir. Refrigerate any leftover solution.

- Place fresh flowers on the bottom of your habitat and sprinkle the nectar on the flowers daily with the included pipette.
- Do not leave standing containers of water or nectar in the habitat. Your butterflies may fall in and drown.

**Fruit:** Slices of orange, banana, apple, watermelon, etc.

- Score fruit with a knife to bring the juices to the surface.

## 6. Set your Butterflies free!

Observe the wonder of your butterflies for a few precious days - then set them free! Remember, butterflies are important members of our environment.



### Here's What To Do:

- Release your butterflies within a week after emergence.
- Be sure **daytime** temperatures are above 55 degrees.
- Open the habitat carefully.
- Watch your butterflies fly away. Butterflies often land on little hands and faces before taking flight!



## Deluxe Chrysalis Station™

Transfer your chrysalides to your butterfly habitat safely and easily.



## Butterfly Feeder

Your butterflies will love our easy-to-use feeder.



Visit [InsectLore.com](https://www.insectlore.com)  
to order your butterfly accessories today!

## Be a Social Butterfly!

Share your Original Butterfly Garden stories, photos and videos on



From our Family of Butterfly Growers to Yours...  
Thank you for your support, and Happy Growing!