

The Chrysalis or Pupa:

- * When you see red frass balls, the caterpillars have finished eating. They will soon attach themselves to the paper under the lid, hang upside down in a "J" form and transform into a pupa (**without your help**) Do not disturb the caterpillar or pupa for at least 48 hours until they have dried and hardened. The pupa is dry when it's a light brown colour with little gold flecks.
- * Start with a clean flight cage. Line the bottom of the flight cage with paper towels.
- * Cages can be cleaned of meconium after use each year with a solution of 5% bleach in cold water and rinsed well with hot water. Dry and store flat in a dry place.
- * After hardening **do not pull the pupa away from the paper**. Take the paper with the pupa attached from the feeding container and using a straight pin, pin the paper onto a netted **side** of the flight cage (**not the top**) hanging down in a natural position.
- * If a pupa does not attach itself properly to the paper or falls off just rest it on the bottom of your flight cage, on top of the paper towel and the butterfly should emerge as usual
- * The pupal stage will last eight to ten days depending on how warm the room may be. Please never leave the insect in any form in direct sunlight until release.

Emergence: Meconium Will Appear

- * Do not be alarmed by the red liquid that you see during emergence, it's not blood. It's called meconium and the butterflies use this fluid to pump up their wings.
- * After emergence the butterfly will pump up it's wings with the meconium. It will take a couple of days for the wings to dry. Until then they are a bit floppy and wet.

Nectar:

- * The butterflies will eventually need to nectar after emergence.
- * Sliced oranges will do as nectar or a little orange Gatorade (yes, the sports drink!) Soak a few cotton balls and place them on a plastic deli lid at the bottom of the flight cage. This will attract them if they are thirsty and ready to nectar and provide the sweetness they require. You may see their little proboscis tube unroll for feeding.

Mating:

- * You may witness mating within three to five days of emergence. If you see two butterflies attached, they are mating. Please do not disturb!

Releases:

- * Releases should be planned in time for egg-laying which usually occurs from 5 to 7 days after emergence. Please be sure to release on a warm day (24C is best), never in the pouring rain, and well before six pm. Cooler days are fine but frost overnight is not.

They are beautiful and hardy butterflies. Enjoy your Painted Ladies and Gentlemen.

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