

The Chrysalis or Pupa: RED FRASS BALLS

- * 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. When this happens do not disturb the caterpillar or pupa for at least 48 hours.
- * The pupa is dry when it's a brown/tan colour with little gold spots.
- * Pre-line the bottom of the cage with paper towels before pinning.
- * After hardening, take the paper with the pupa attached from the container and pin the paper (using a straight pin) onto a netted side of a flight cage, (not the top) hanging down. This is the best position for emerging.
- * 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 for emergence.

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.
- * During emergence the butterfly will pump up its wings and dry them for a couple of days.
- * The pupal stage will last eight to ten days depending on how warm the room is. Please never leave the insect, in any form in direct sunlight. Handle the larvae as little as possible especially during moulting or pupation.

Nectar:

- * The butterflies will usually not nectar immediately after emergence. If you keep them for longer than two days they will need to nectar.
- * Sliced oranges will do or a little orange Gatorade (yes, the drink!) Soak a cotton ball and place 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 for feeding come out.

Mating: PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB!

- * You may witness mating as early as two or three days after emergence. If you see two butterflies attached, they are mated. They will separate in their own time.

Releases: WHEN TO LET THEM FLY FREE

- * Releases can 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 ideal), never in the pouring rain, and well before six pm.

They are beautiful and hardy butterflies. Enjoy your Painted Ladies and Gentlemen.
Thank you for promoting our pollinators.

Lucy Perna, Butterfly Farmer
www.lucysbutterflyfarm.com
See instructions, FAQ and photos on the website.