

# Care instructions for painted lady butterflies

*Vanessa cardui*

## Care instructions

### Filling the cups

When filling the cups, make sure that your hands have been thoroughly cleaned beforehand. The food should evenly and completely cover the bottom of the cup and be about 3-4mm high (approximately one well-heaped teaspoon or 11 grams). There should be no cracks and as few uneven areas as possible, so that the caterpillar does not become trapped by the food.

### Covering the cups

The cloth must be stretched tightly over the cup. If this is not the case, there is a risk that the pupa will hang too low, come into contact with the food, and develop poorly or not at all.

### Closing the cups

The lids must fit tightly on the cups; otherwise, the food will dry out too quickly and will no longer be eaten, or only poorly eaten, by the caterpillars.

### What can I do if problems arise?

It may happen that the caterpillars chew on the cloth, usually if it was stretched over the cup too early. In this case, please replace the cloth with a new one, as otherwise the caterpillar may have difficulty hanging correctly for pupation.

If condensation forms inside the cups, it must be carefully dabbed off with a cloth.

If mold forms inside the cups, it must be carefully removed immediately. If there is still food left, thoroughly clean the cup and refill it with fresh food.

Molting residues found in the cups can be removed.

If the food has become too dry, a small amount of water can be added to the food and then gently massaged in.

A blackish or reddish discoloration of the food indicates bacterial contamination. The cup must be cleaned and refilled with fresh food.

For further problems, please contact our butterfly hotline: +49 157 55652704

The cups must not be placed in direct sunlight. Strong temperature fluctuations should be avoided!

