

Frequently Asked Questions About Our Butterfly Kits

Why do you sell a kit that contains a coupon (or just the coupon alone) instead of shipping caterpillars directly from Nature-Watch?

Like most educational supply companies, we are not experts at breeding the butterfly larvae. Instead, we work with a butterfly farm that specializes in raising and shipping the caterpillars. This ensures that when you receive your caterpillars you will be able to see a complete butterfly metamorphosis. We hope this helps explain why you need to take the additional step of mailing your coupon to redeem your caterpillars.

How long does it take to receive my larvae (caterpillars) after I mail my coupon to the butterfly farm?

It usually takes about a week from the time the farm receives your coupon. **However**, during the spring months, it can take anywhere from 1-3 weeks as the spring is their busiest time of the year. Extremely hot or cold weather can also cause delay.

How long does the total butterfly life cycle take?

It typically takes about 3 weeks from the time you receive your caterpillars (larvae). It takes about 7-10 days in the larval stage and then another 7-10 days in the pupal stage.

How long will the adult butterflies live?

Their normal life span is 2 to 4 weeks.

Do we need to feed the larvae when they arrive?

The larvae will arrive in a cup that contains a gel that provides nutrients for them. So, there is no need to feed the larvae.

Can I raise butterflies during any time of year?

Yes, this project can be done year round. However, if you order during the colder months, be prepared to keep the butterflies indoors in their habitat for the entire life cycle.

Can I release my butterflies in cold weather?

If you are going to release the butterflies outdoors, the temperature should be above 55 degrees.

Is there any food provided for the adult butterflies?

There is no food provided for the adult butterflies, but there is a "recipe" (the ingredients are sugar and water!) along with a dropper for feeding the butterflies.

Will all five larvae mature into butterflies?

It's difficult to say if all 5 butterflies will emerge, but it is safe to say that typically either 4 or 5 will do so.

What kind of butterflies are they?

The American Painted Lady (the scientific name is *Vanessa cardui* L.)