

Caring for Cecropia Moth Caterpillars



- Feed the same kind of leaves on which the caterpillars have been started. Caterpillars may die if they are fed a new kind of leaves.
- Add fresh leaves each day.
- Clean out the frass (Excrement).
- When the caterpillars grow larger be sure to separate them otherwise they will start to eat each other. Provide sticks on which large caterpillars can rest as they change from one instar to another.
- Before spinning a cocoon caterpillars expel a dark fluid. Do not let them lie in this fluid as they get ready to spin.
- When the caterpillars have spun their cocoons be sure to keep them in a cool place. Do not disturb them while they are forming a pupa inside of the silken cocoon.
- Keep them in a cold place over winter. Protect them from rodents that might eat the cocoons. (Screened container)
- Moths will eclose the next May or June. Provide a place from which the moths will hang when they expand their wings.
- Adult moths do not eat. They live only long enough to mate, lay eggs and then die. Release the adult moths at night.