

PAINTED LADY ARTIFICIAL DIET RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Preparing The Diet : *(Entire bag of Powder Diet Mix makes 9 3oz containers)*

Powder Diet Mix (Approximately 1-1/2 cups)

2-1/3 Cups distilled or purified water

1-1/2 Tablespoons white vinegar

Use clean utensils and do not touch mix with your hands to avoid contamination. Place powder diet mix into a large clean mixing bowl. **In separate bowl, mix vinegar and water.** Add just enough of the water/vinegar solution to the powder diet mix until you get the consistency of firm cookie dough.

Preparing Small Amounts Of Diet:

To make a smaller amount of diet, start with a small amount of dry powder diet mix (1/4 cup for example). Use the same water to vinegar ratio as above, but only use enough water/vinegar solution to achieve the firm cookie dough like texture.

You can save the water/vinegar solution in the refrigerator until needed. Ready made mixture may be stored in refrigerator for up to 4 months. Store unused dry powder mix in freezer for up to a year.

Caterpillar Feeding Tips:

Prepare a clean plastic container with a tight fitting lid by punching a few holes in the lid. Use a layer of fine mesh, coffee filter or paper towel under the lid to keep the tiny larvae from escaping. Place the prepared diet mixture in the bottom of the container. Keeping in mind that 3 ounces of diet can feed 6 to 8 caterpillars.

Transfer caterpillars directly onto the artificial diet using a soft paint brush. Keep container away from light for the first few days to encourage the caterpillars to eat. (Placing the larvae rearing cup in a brown paper bag works great.) In about 3 days or once you've notice the larvae have begun to grow, you can remove the container from the bag, but be sure to keep the larvae out of direct sunlight. If you see moisture building up in container, remove lid and pat dry with a paper towel. Other than that, you should not disturb the caterpillars by opening the lid until all caterpillars have changed into chrysalises.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me at vickie@obsessionwithbutterflies.com