

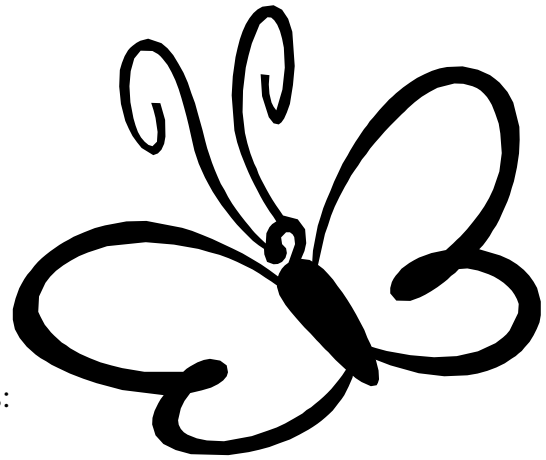


## How to Raise Caterpillars:

To find caterpillars, you must first look in the right places. Different types of caterpillars are found on different plants. The plant you found your caterpillar on is most likely the plant that the caterpillar prefers to eat.

**The following is a list of caterpillars you may find and some of their preferred host plants:**

- Monarch Butterfly – Milkweed plants:
  - Common Milkweed
  - Marsh Milkweed
  - Butterfly Weed
- Black Swallowtail Butterfly – Umbel plants:
  - Dill
  - Fennel
  - Poison Parsnip
  - Angelica
  - Queen Anne's Lace
  - Parsley
- Hornworms – Tomato or tobacco plants.
- Cecropia, Polyphemus, Luna Moths – Any number of trees:
  - Cherry
  - Oak
  - Walnut
  - Willow



**Step #1:** Find a plastic container with a lid (cream cheese, margarine, etc.) Have an adult punch holes in the lid of the container with a nail or a knife. Fill the container with water and put the top back on. Take the host plants you cut, and push them into the holes (Be sure to cut the ends of the plants at a steep angle). Also, take any other insects and spiders off the plants; they could harm your caterpillar.

**Step #2:** Place your caterpillar on the plant. Refill the container with water if it gets low. Cut off all the lower leaves so none of them are in the water.

**Step #3:** Buy a yard of netting from a fabric store. Drape the netting over your plant. Secure it around the base of the container with a rubber band. You can also buy a pre-made caterpillar house from a number of stores and suppliers (see pictures).

Always make sure that the caterpillar has fresh, healthy leaves to eat. If the caterpillar eats all the leaves, find more of its host plant. Clean out the cage often; remove frass (feces) at the bottom of the cage. When your caterpillar gets big, it may stop eating and start roaming the cage. It is looking for a place to pupate, or turn into a chrysalis. Put sticks in the cage also so the caterpillar can pupate on them, though some will pupate underground (hornworms).

### Caterpillar Finding Tips:

- Look for leaves with frass on them. The caterpillar shouldn't be too far!
- Go out on warm, sunny days (above 70 degrees).
- If it is very hot and sunny out, the caterpillars may be on the underside of the leaves.
- If you see cut out sections on the sides of leaves the caterpillar should be nearby!



### The following is the expected lifespan for each caterpillar:

- Monarchs: 2-3 weeks as a larva, 2 weeks as a pupa. Will not over-winter as a pupa
- Black Swallowtail: 2-3 weeks as a larva, 2 weeks as a pupa or will over winter as a pupa
- Hornworms: 4+ weeks as a larva, 2-3+ weeks as a pupa or will over winter as a pupa
- Cecropia, Polyphemus, Luna Moths: 6+ weeks as a larva, will over winter as a pupa

**Hopefully this worksheet will help you and your families raise all kinds of caterpillars successfully!**

