

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'VE JUST MADE AN EXCELLENT CHOICE.

Silkworm rearing is one of the most enjoyable, engaging, and educational experience you will have. All it takes is an appreciation for nature, a nurturing heart and daily dedication.

The kit that you have doubles up as housing and cocooning kit. An enduring, microwave-able piping bag of cooked mulberry chow is included to raise your silkworms to cocoons. There is nothing else you will need, except for some halved empty tissue rolls to help the spinning silkworm anchor itself to spin a cocoon.

This light weight transparent plastic container allows you to see everything clearly without obstructions. The colorful screen on the bottom separates the frass (poop) of the silkworm from its rearing bed and should be removed and cleaned daily if possible. Always wash your hands before and after handling silkworms and silkworm food.

SILKWORMS 101

Keep the silkworms at temperatures between 72 and 85 degree Fahrenheit for optimal growth. There is no need to keep the silkworms covered. They do not crawl out. You may close the lid to preserve the food longer but it is better to provide air circulation in order to keep them healthy. When silkworms are cold, they tend to become sluggish and grow very slowly and spin small cocoons. Have food for them at all times and clean their rearing bed diligently. They require very minimal care other than the basics and will surely reward you with a wholesome and enjoyable experience.



www.ladysilkworm.com

New York

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SILKWORM REARING & COCOONING KIT



A PRODUCT BY

Lady Silkworm



HOW TO USE BAGGED MULBERRY CHOW

The squeeze bag contains sterile, freshly prepared mulberry chow. Cut away a little at the tip and squeeze the chow onto areas away from the existing/old chow. Make sure to air dry the chow completely from time to time to prevent mold growth. You may cut away the tip progressively to let out chunks of this chow as the silkworms grow larger. Some people prefer piping over on top because this actually creates a cushion/crawl for the silkworms. Silkworms will migrate to the fresh food and you should remove the old chow if you can. Avoid waste of food. Refrigerate after use. Additional food is available for purchase in dry or wet form on www.ladysilkworm.com. Silkworm's preferred diet is fresh mulberry leaves if you have them nearby. They grow everywhere in the US, more so than you would think! Make sure the source is pesticide free by testing on a few worms first. Always wash hands before and after.

ABOUT COLOR CHOW

Color chow comes in **Magic Purple**, **Cotton Candy**, and **Glowing Cyan**. These chows turn regular silkworms into exotic colors and take your rearing experience to a whole new level. They are meant to be fed to silkworms after they have grown one inch long (after 3rd instar). Prior to that you may feed regular chow. Do not mix or rotate different colored chows but continue only on the same color for intensity. The silkworms will turn color within days and will spin colorful cocoons. Be sure to add all available colors to your collection.

THE SILKWORM LIFECYCLE



There is a lot to cover in this area. Please refer to <http://www.suekayton.com/silk.htm> for details on the silkworm's lifecycle. This brochure is meant to explain the functioning of this kit.

A few things worth noting: silkworms do molt and shed skin during which time they do not eat or move. They go into a "prayer mode" and are semi-dormant. Do not touch or disturb them. After 24 hours they will "walk" out of their old skin and resume eating happily. They go through 4 molting stages before they start cocooning.

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HOW TO USE THE COCOONING KIT

When a silkworm reaches 1.5 inch long, she will start to feed at enormous rate, at about 80% of total consumption during her lifetime. After she is 2 inches or longer, she will then stop eating and start wandering about the sides or corners looking for a place to cocoon. (They can, but do not always succeed in spinning complete cocoons in an open box; they need to have a structure for anchoring.) The silkworm swings her head in circular motion and spins out a thin, continuous thread of silk. This is when you should remove the silkworms to another container (if you haven't already) and flip the kit around so that the pocket side is on the bottom. Place empty, halved tissue rolls into each pocket. They fit perfectly and snugly. Place a spinning silkworm in each individual cell. At some time she will let out the last of her inner guts. It will be watery but don't be alarmed. Close the lid to make sure she does not wander out. By the next morning, she will have completely wrapped herself in a perfect cocoon. Your silkworms will cocoon within days or hours of each other. Do not feel nervous if you need to open up the kit to drop another spinning silkworm inside, there is very little disruption to the cocooning process. You can even double up and let two silkworms spin one giant cocoon for some fun!



In about two weeks, the silkworms will emerge! The moths do not eat, drink or fly. They will mate and lay eggs and say goodbye. Put them in a cardboard box lined with cardstock for them to lay eggs. You may put the eggs away in a Ziploc bag and hatch them for next rearing season.