



Utah Bug Club

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Raising Caterpillars of the Checkered White Butterfly:

1. Caterpillars of this butterfly feed on the flowers of mustards such as whitetop (*Cardaria draba*) and dyar's woad (*Isatis tinctoria*) which grow commonly in the spring around Salt Lake and Farmington in disturbed areas, unbuilt properties, unmowed patches of parks, areas around freeway ramps, growing adjacent to alfalfa fields, etc.



Little girl looking on flowers of whitetop. This is where you place caterpillars of the checkered white. Whitetop is more common in Salt Lake County than it is in Davis County.



Look along old roadsides or disturbed areas for dyar's woad. Place caterpillars on flowers. Dyar's Woad is more common in Davis County than it is in Salt Lake County.

2. Place larva on a flower of either whitetop or dyar's woad into butterfly raising container provided. Poke holes in the lid of container.
3. Every day, empty container of any caterpillar frass. (droppings)

4. Every two days, go find fresh whitetop or dyar's woad. Cut stem with scissors and place plant inside a plastic bag. Find caterpillar in your container, cut flower stalk off (around caterpillar) with scissors. Place larva on old stock onto fresh flowers of the plant you just collected. Repeat step three for roughly 3 weeks until the caterpillar forms a chrysalis either on the leaf, stem, or side of container.



Caterpillar on mustard feeding on flowers in container



Closeup of Checkered White Caterpillar when it gets large in about three weeks.

5. Tape paper towel in the same container; both on lid and on sides of container. Allow chrysalis to go undisturbed for 1-2 weeks until it emerges as an adult butterfly. If the caterpillar forms a chrysalis on a stem, fasten the stem with which the chrysalis is attached using masking tape to the emergence container; Keep out of direct sunlight!



Squat tub container with paper towel fastened to lid and side. Tape chrysalis in container. Adult should emerge in 1-2 weeks.



Chrysalis of checkered white butterfly.