



Utah Bug Club

<http://www.utahbugclub.org>



Official Sponsor:
www.utahlepsociety.org




Raising Caterpillars of the Painted Lady:

1. Caterpillars of this butterfly feed on thistles. Every year, this butterfly migrates into Utah from Mexico; either by the thousands, millions, or billions, or in limited numbers, depending upon how moist the Mexican winter was.



Painted Lady caterpillar nests and feeding damage on thistles (up close)

Painted Lady caterpillar nests and feeding damage on thistles.

2. Females deposit tiny eggs on the upper surface of thistle leaves. When the eggs hatch, place first instar larva on fresh thistle leaves in a container provided. When removing frass and replacing old thistle with new thistle every four days or so, handle with care as these plants are spiny.
3. When the large caterpillar is done, it will hang as a 'J' from the lid before forming a chrysalis or hang from the thistle leaf. Cut it out secure with masking tape into your emergence container provided. Fasten paper towel around the container so that the adult butterfly can expand its wings when it emerges.
4. Watch us on  or, visit the [raising butterflies website](http://raisingbutterflies.com) for more details.