

The following care instructions are provided by Timberline Fisheries.

Cricket Care

Storage

Remove the crickets from the shipping box as soon as you get them. Keep the egg crates or partitions from within the shipping boxes to use within your own cricket container. These egg crates provide a climbing area for the crickets, allowing them to spread out, de-stress, and enjoy their new home. You can use Timberline's throwaway cardboard tubes to make it easier to catch the crickets for selling. Crickets ½" and larger need to be kept in an 18-20 gallon container that is at least 15" tall. You'll need a container that's slick enough on the inside to prevent the crickets from climbing out. Also, crickets require a good amount of ventilation. The Cricket Display Case is a perfect cricket home, because it provides for these cricket needs in addition to being easy to clean and sales-floor friendly. If you use plastic tubs or aquariums as a cricket enclosure, don't use a lid. Remove any potato used in the shipping box. Crickets don't need bedding material; using it can actually harm their health and life span.

Ideal Temperature

The ideal temperature range is between 70°-75° F. Avoid temperatures above 80° and below 65° F. The cricket container should never be exposed to high humidity, direct sunlight, or cold drafts. Keep the container dry, and provide plenty of ventilation. Crickets shipped during cold weather might arrive looking dead; just release them into the container and allow them 3-4 hours to warm up. Cold temperatures can cause them to become dormant, but a few hours at room temperature usually perks them right up.

Food and Water

Always make fresh Timberline Cricket Power Food and Easy Water available in shallow containers (like our Easy Water Tray). Keep no more than a two-day supply in the container at any time, replacing the supply of food and water every two days. Following this rule will decrease your cricket mortality rate. Never mix the Power Food and Easy Water together. Avoid fruits, vegetables, or a bowl of water, which can cause bacteria growth, increased mortality, and a bad smell.

Cleaning

Keeping the cricket container clean will ensure a longer, healthier life for your crickets, and will allow you to keep them on the sales floor for maximum profit. To clean the container, remove any dead crickets, shed skins, and waste material. Wash the container out with hot water (you can also use a very mild bleach solution) between cricket shipments. Thoroughly rinse the container and allow it to dry before adding a new batch of crickets. Never expose your crickets or cricket container to any kind of pesticides or cleaning solution other than a mild bleach solution.

Fruit Fly Care

Storage

Timberline fruit flies can be stored in the plastic tubes they're shipped in. Simply remove the plastic cap and to improve air flow into the vial. You can then remove the foam plugs when you want to dispense flies.

Ideal Temperature

Flies should be kept at or near room temperature. Although the temperature is not critical, cool temperatures will slow fly production and warm temperatures will result in bacteria and mold growth in the medium.

Reproducing

Keep at least half of the flies in the vial for reproduction purposes for several days after you receive them. In most cases, several generations of flies will be produced over the five to six weeks that the medium will last. At room temperature, *Drosophila melanogaster* will complete a life cycle in 12 to 15 days. It takes about 25 days for *Hydei sturdivant*.

Standard and Giant Mealworm Care

Ideal Temperature, Storage and Maintenance

Mealworms purchased in cups should be stored in the refrigerator (a range of 42°-55° F). Mealworms purchased in bulk require a bit of prep work before they're stored in the refrigerator. Bulk mealworms are shipped in a box containing egg crate. The worms need to be transferred into a plastic container (the quantity of worms determines the size of your container). If your container has a lid, it will need several aeration holes. Fill the container with about 1" of mealworm bedding, add the worms, then layer another 1" of bedding on top. Mealworms can be kept in the refrigerator for up to two weeks with very little maintenance. After two weeks, the mealworms should be removed from the refrigerator, and a small amount of Easy Water should be added to the top of the bedding. Allow the mealworms to stay at room temperature for about 24 hours. This will allow them enough time to "wake up" and become more active so that they can consume food and water. The mealworm bedding is their food source. After the 24 hours have passed, remove any remaining Easy Water and place the worms back in the refrigerator. Repeat this process on a two week schedule.

Superworm Care

Ideal Temperature, Storage and Maintenance

Superworms are tropical insects that require warmer temperatures than standard/giant mealworms. Superworms' ideal temperature range is 70°- 80° F. Cupped superworms can be stored in the cups for up to two weeks. Bulk superworms will be shipped in a box with egg crate. Store your superworms in a plastic container between two layers of mealworm bedding (2" on bottom and 1/2" on top). Good container guidelines for a superworm container include dimensions about twice that of a shoebox, at least six inches tall, without a lid, and of sturdy plastic construction. (Small cat pans usually work well.) Add a small amount of Easy Water every other day to provide moisture for the worms. Depending on the quantity of superworms, fresh bedding should be added every week to two weeks to maintain the 2 ½" layers. Plan on completely replacing the bedding every three to four weeks.

Waxworm

Ideal Temperature, Storage and Maintenance

Timberline waxworms can be stored for a couple of weeks if kept at 55° F. This is the ideal temperature for waxworms; however, most refrigerators are a little colder than this. Often, the butter tray on the door of your refrigerator is the best place to find this ideal temperature. It's better to keep waxworms at room temp with low humidity than it is to store them in a refrigerator that is colder than 40° F in its warmest area. Cupped waxworms should be stored in their cup. They have entered a stage in their life cycle where they no longer consume food. They are living off the fat supplies in their bodies. This means you'll see them growing smaller the longer you keep them. Always remove any dead (black) wax worms from the container. It's extremely important that they be stored in low humidity.