

Care Sheet

Crickets

Crickets hibernate at temperatures below 50 degrees. Allow 3 hours at room temperature for them to become active before assessing any losses. Additionally, each box contains approximately a 20% over-count to compensate for expected losses during transit.

Container:

Crickets should be immediately transferred to a suitable container. Sides should be at least 12 inches high and slick enough so that they cannot escape. No lid is necessary, and adequate ventilation must be provided. Plastic storage boxes and aquariums make great containers for storing crickets. Be sure to provide surface area for the crickets to climb and a dark place to hide. The egg crates used in the shipping containers work well and cardboard tubes from paper towels are a convenient way to transfer crickets. Any dead crickets should be periodically removed and the container should be kept as clean and dry as possible. Use hot water to clean the container between uses. Some detergents and cleaners leave a residue that can kill crickets. Do not use bedding material. Do not expose container to ants or insecticides.

Temperature:

Crickets can survive in temperatures between 60 and 85 degrees F. 70-75 degrees F is the ideal temperature range. Avoid direct sunlight, cold, and high humidity.

Nutrition:

Crickets will eat any corn-based food source such as corn meal or cereal. There are various chicken feeds that are suitable as long as the consistency is similar to corn meal.

Water should be provided in an accessible dish or container, making sure crickets do not drown. A sponge or paper towel works well for smaller size crickets. For larger crickets, gravel or aquarium rocks can be placed in the water dish to keep them from drowning.

Waxworms

Container:

Cupped worms can remain in their container. Bulk worms should be moved to a larger plastic container with approximately 1" of mealworm bedding or pine shavings. Keep well ventilated. Remove any dead worms.

Temperature:

The ideal place for waxworms is the butter tray of your refrigerator. Do not store below 40 degrees. If you're not able to keep them in your butter tray, room temperature is better than getting them too cold.

Nutrition:

No food is necessary. Waxworms are in a dormant stage and are living off fat stores. Because of this, they shrink as they age.

Mealworms

Mealworms should be refrigerated from 45-50 degrees. Store them in a plastic container with 2 inches of wheat or oat bran bedding. To feed and water your mealworms, remove from refrigerator and place slices of fruit or vegetables on top of bedding. When the mealworms warm up, they'll come to the surface to feed within a couple of hours. Gel water can also be used for hydrating them, but remove any excess gel before returning the mealworms to the refrigerator. Be sure to occasionally remove any sheddings from the container to keep your mealworms as healthy as possible.

Superworms

Superworms should be kept at 70-80 degrees. Refrigeration will kill them! Store them in a plastic container with 2 inches of wheat or oat bran. To feed and water your superworms, place slices of cut potato on top of bedding. Be sure to occasionally remove any sheddings from the container to keep your superworms as healthy as possible.