

## Silkworm breeding at home

**Once you have the eggs with you :** Spread the eggs over a flat surface (example: a tupperware top) where you will place a clean white sheet of paper.

**Temperature:** The place must be hot and humid. So we recommend to place the eggs on top of a water recipient. An ideal condition will be anywhere from 20 degrees Celsius at the beginning and 23 degrees Celsius when hatching from the egg.

**Hacking:** Eggs are dark gray at the beginning, but two days before worms hatch from the eggs, they will change into a blue-ish light gray color.

Most of the time they hatch in the morning (around 10:00 a.m.) Generally, we take them out 20 days after we take them out of the fridge. (Once you took the eggs with you, take into consideration 15 days).

To get your worms together, you must put little threads of mulberry leaves close to them, the smell will gather them together so you can move them into a bigger place, like a cardboard or a box.

**Feeding:** We will only use fresh white mulberry leaves or Korean mulberry leaves eventually (*Morus australis*) take the smallest leaves, the one who just started blooming for the first feeding. Give them more consistent leaves after.

The leaf must be cut into delicate threads so that worms eat them easily. After the distribution is done we must keep it fresh. We can cover them up with fine transparent paper or plastic paper. Worms must be uncovered one hour before their next feeding to let their space air out. If you do so, try to reduce humidity so their space is dry. This process is only for very young worms. You must feed them two or three times a day.

Attention! Do not make the mistake of feeding the small worms too many leaves and not feeding the older ones enough. One layer of leaves is enough for the small worms; do not give them more than one layer.

**Cleaning:** Cleaning is very important to succeed in silkworm breeding. Your tools,(such as the knife and the cutting pan) must be clean. Wash your hands with soap (Marseille soap) before cutting and distributing the leaves.

**Spacing:** Do not let the worms lay on top of one another at any point. You must pay attention to their living space everyday. Silkworms are very small but they grow extremely fast!

You must transfer the worms to a new container every 3 or 4 days. We must then feed the worms with the entire leaf, without cutting off the stem. This will allow us to move the worms that are mounted on top of the leaf into a new layer of leaves, and taking away the old ones.