



# BUTTERFLY WINGS N' WISHES LTD

## Live Butterfly Release Information & Price list

**Butterfly Wings n' Wishes**

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Web: [www.butterflyab.ca](http://www.butterflyab.ca)



## THE BUTTERFLIES:

Our butterflies are *Vanessa cardui*, the Painted Lady, native across North America (right up to the arctic circle!) and they are ethical to release during the appropriate season. Although Monarchs are generally known as the most "popular" butterfly for release, we do not breed them in our Edmonton laboratory. Monarchs are only occasional migrants to Alberta, and our province does not have their only host plant (Milkweed) in quantity, meaning they lack the necessary habitat to breed. Although we do have a few Monarchs who may make it all the way up here during their yearly migration, their numbers are too small to be considered stable.

Painted Ladies, on the other hand have numerous, readily available host plants, and are highly adapted to our unpredictable northern weather, and are "irruptive migrants," meaning they migrate without regard to geography or season: only to weather. Our butterflies are hand-reared by us at our CFIA-approved facility in Edmonton, never captured from the wild. These insects take 4 weeks to become adults, so it is important that you place your order as early as possible; we cannot guarantee how many butterflies we have available if we don't have an adequate 4-week window to breed them. That being said, we are aware that not all events can be planned for in advance: we try to keep some butterflies available for short notice events.

## SHIPPING & CARE:

**Overnight Shipping:** We can get butterflies almost anywhere in Canada by Purolator express overnight. They ship by air and typically arrive in one day.

**Shipping is not available on weekends,** so if your event falls on a weekend we will have to deliver your butterflies in advance.

**Packaging:** Each butterfly is packaged in an individual glossy white box for release (1" x 1" x 2"). These are placed in an insulated shipping box along with ice packs to keep the butterflies cool and dormant during transport.

**When they arrive to you,** you will need to keep them cool and quiet until you are ready for release: a good ballpark is between 8 and 15 degrees C. The butterflies will be fine for up to 5 days in their boxes if these conditions are maintained. Wine coolers work great for this: a regular fridge would need to be on it's warmest setting.

**We need a minimum lead time of 4 weeks on orders. We cannot guarantee last minute availability: it takes us 4 weeks to raise a butterfly.**

**We recognize that some events are unpredictable, and we do try to keep extras on hand to accommodate those.**

## CONDITIONS:

**Time of year:** Release season runs from May 31-September 1.

**Local Conditions:** On the day of your release, butterflies require full sunlight and temperatures exceeding 18-19 degrees (and do best at 24+). Temperatures lower than that will result in your butterflies dropping directly onto the ground helplessly. This means you cannot release in cool or overcast conditions.

**Work with the butterflies:** If you end up with bad weather on the day of your planned event, you'll have to hold onto your butterflies until you get more appropriate weather. We require you to be flexible in regards to your event, in order to prioritize the well-being of these delicate animals.

**Other Incidents to look out for:** events such as unexpected high winds, snow, ice storms, rain or flooding, OR blanketing smoke from fires require a butterfly release will have to be postponed. If we haven't shipped yet, we can hold them for you and reschedule. These events are rare but possible.

**Further instructions will be included at time of arrival.**

## THE RELEASE EVENT:

*Again, be mindful of the weather: butterflies require sunlight and temperatures exceeding 18-19 degrees: and they do best at 24. If conditions are not satisfactory, the butterflies can remain in a diapause state if kept cool for up to 4-5 days. It's good to plan for this, just in case.*

The warmer the butterflies are, the more quickly they will move. We recommend removing them from the cold no sooner than 5 minutes before you do your release. If you see the boxes begin to shake and shiver, that means the butterflies have woken and it is time to let them go!



Painted ladies as a species are solitary, **so they do not fly upwards together in a cloud**. Instead they will disperse as individuals.

The release will take some time: some will fly to nearby plants and flowers, some will fly to the ground, and some will fly away from you. Some will try and remain in their boxes and may need some gentle encouragement from you (giving you a good opportunity for photos).

Please be mindful of their activities: once they are released they will do all kinds of unpredictable buggy things: for instance, be aware not to step on them!

Be sure to release your butterflies somewhere they will feel comfortable: near a wooded area, or a naturescape with trees, flowering plants, and places to hide. Your butterflies will stay with you if host and nectar plants are in the area.



**Included in shipping box will be a copy of the instructions, your invoice/receipt, as well as a card printed with an abridged version of this legend.**

*When the Creator made butterflies, he used only the most beautiful inspiration from the world. He took black from the maiden's hair, yellow from the warm summer sun, orange from the flower blossom, and blue from the rivers and waters of the earth. But He did not give them a voice, as they were His own special creatures, and more beautiful than all others. If you have a secret wish, a dream, or a secret, capture a butterfly and whisper your heart's desire to it. Since butterflies make no sound, they will carry your wish to the Creator, who alone knows the thoughts of butterflies. By releasing them into the wild you are helping restore the sacred balance of nature, and your heart's needs will surely be granted.*

**Please see next page for pricing and shipping information if you would like to place an order and have not recieved a gift certificate.**

# PRICE SHEET AND ORDER FORM

*Before you place your order, we recommend contacting us to confirm that we will have butterflies available, as we often sell out far in advance.*

## ADULT BUTTERFLIES

<i>Vanessa cardui, Painted lady</i>		<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Less than 24 butterflies	\$12.50 each		
25-50 butterflies	\$10.50 each		
50 or more butterflies	\$8.50 each		

## SHIPPING

Edmonton Shipping ( <i>within 40k – no pickup</i> )	\$18.00	
Calgary Shipping ( <i>city limits only</i> )	\$30.00	
Shipping elsewhere in Alberta	\$35.00	
Shipping to other provinces ( <i>will be quoted</i> )	\$45.00+	
NS, NL ( <i>will be quoted</i> )	\$70.00-\$90.00	
YT, NT, NVT ( <i>will be quoted</i> )	\$90.00+	

<b>GST</b> ( <i>Provincial rates apply</i> )	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	

## SHIPPING/BILLING INFORMATION – *please fill out in entirety*

Company/Facility	
Name	
Phone Number	
E-mail	
Physical Street Address	
City, Province, Postal Code	
DATE OF EVENT	

- *Before you place your order, we recommend contacting us to confirm that we will have butterflies available.*
- *There is a minimum of 6 butterflies per shipped order.*
- *DEPOSIT/REFUND: All adult butterfly orders require a 50% deposit to be paid at the time of booking, to guarantee your spot. Remaining balance is due no later than 2 days prior to shipping. Deposits are non-refundable.*
- *CANCELLATIONS: to cancel your order, we need a minimum 10 business days (2 weeks) notice to cancel your order prior to your shipping date. The deposit your placed is non-refundable. We do not refund shipped orders if weather is unsuitable for release, though if they are not able to be shipped, credits can be held for as long as needed.*

*Orders can be placed:*

*Online at [www.butterflyab.ca](http://www.butterflyab.ca)*

*Over the phone: 780-462-1839*

*Via Email: [bugs@butterflyab.com](mailto:bugs@butterflyab.com)*

*Butterfly Wings N' Wishes respectfully acknowledges that we operate on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our business, our way of life, and our community.*

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