

Mantis Hatchlings (*Tenodera sinensis*)

CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Kit Includes:

- 3 hatchling Chinese mantis (also called nymphs)
- 3 16 oz vials to house each mantis
- 1 container of flightless fruit flies for feeding them (on Repashy Superfly Diet)

Things You Will Need:

- A spray bottle to mist your mantis
- decorations such as sticks for the enclosures
- After about a month, you'll need new housing, and switch to crickets as feeders

WHEN THEY ARRIVE:

Check them over: make sure they are upright and moving around. Mantis never lay down.

Mist them immediately. They may be dehydrated from shipping! Spray the inside of the container so that the paper towel is damp and there are droplets on the walls. Do not allow pools of water to form at the bottom. Ideal humidity is 65-80%.

Feed: If there are no flies alive in the container, you can add a couple. Each baby mantis only eats a couple at a time: do not add more than just a few flies. See below on how to feed.

Redecorate: Optional. Your mantis had some things to help them travel: damp paper towel and some excelsior to walk on. You can keep or discard these items. The mantis need things to walk on and somewhere to hang upside down to shed their skins as they grow. DO NOT add cedar of any type, or any materials that will be too moldy, dirty, or are potentially contaminated with things like pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers: stay away from materials that come from a roadside where fumes will be an issue.

GENERAL CARE:

WATER: they need to be watered every day or two, by misting them gently.

FOOD: Each mantis will only eat a couple flies per day when very small. When very young, offer food daily or near-daily. As they grow older, you will find you can feed less frequently: a mantis over 2 months in age is fine eating 2-3 times per week. As they grow larger, a good suggestion is that they eat about 30% of their body size at each feeding. Do not overfeed: if you always see dead flies or leftover food after a couple days because they are uneaten, you are feeding too much.

1. Get the lid loose on the mantis container so you can pop it off quick.
2. Tap the bottom of the fly container on a surface so that all the flies fall to the bottom. They can't fly.
3. Open the mantis lid a bit. Tapping continuously, tip the fly container over the lip of the mantis house and tap **only a few** flies out. Keep tapping if you need to.
4. Close the containers.
5. **Once they outgrow the flies**, which takes about a month, you will need to begin sourcing your own live food such as crickets. Be cautious of catching wild food: wild bugs are often exposed to pesticides. They do need live prey!
6. **If you feed crickets, never feed your crickets carrot, which is linked to toxicity deaths in mantis.**

Keep containers out of direct sunlight.

House Separately: Mantis are opportunistic predators: they will eat each other.

Shedding: Your mantis will shed its skin (moult) numerous times, leaving behind a crispy husk. Again, ideal humidity is 65-80%: this is to promote healthy molting.

Housing: The provided containers will last around a month, at which point you will need to upgrade. Always add something for



your mantis to climb on and hang upside down from. A home should be at least four times the body length in height and width: bigger is ALWAYS better.

Lifespan: The natural lifespan of a mantis is about 6-8 months, and they will reach nearly 4 inches in length, growing wings once they reach their final "instar" (aka molt).

Insect Safety: your mantis are fragile and delicate, and a bit jumpy. You can let them walk on you but don't try to pinch them or grab them. Once they are big, they are very exciting to hold. They cannot bite you.

Insect Health: Keep your mantis away from aerosols, sprays, perfumes/room sprays, essential oils, cedar, cleaning products, pesticides, and materials that offgas (such as Teflon and non-stick cookware). These are bad for all bugs.

AS THEY GROW LARGER...

These Check out our instructions on "large nymph/adult mantis" – these go into further detail on the care of larger mantis.

CAN I RELEASE MY MANTIS?

We do not suggest doing this. Mantis are BIG insects: bigger than most native predator insects in Canada. As adults, they eat bees, butterflies - they are big enough to eat hummingbirds. While it is true that they are legal to release in Canada (as agricultural pest control), there are more ethical choices to make for the mantis themselves, which can still fall victim to predators in the wild, and for the environment.

Please consider the risk of releasing non-native predators into the wild before you make that choice.

Mantis make an interesting addition to any setting and are very fun to observe and report on with a shorter natural lifespan than most starter pets. You will notice them watching food items and watching you too! The more you interact with them, the tamer they become.

We guarantee alive arrival in shipping: however, once the mantis arrive, be ready to take care of them. These are living creatures and have needs of their own you'll have to meet. We can't control what happens past the point of shipping, but we can help you on your mantis adventure. Should you encounter any problems with your mantis, call us right away so that we can help.

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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