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Tenebrio (Mealworms)

Mealworms are the larval stage of the life cycle of the Tenebrio beetle. The life cycle consists of the adult beetle, which lays eggs that develop into mealworm larvae and these metamorphose into the adult beetle. The entire life cycle takes a period of 6-10 weeks, depending on temperature and nutrients.

To maintain these organisms, transfer the contents of the Mealworm culture to a ventilated container such as an empty plastic ice cream container or bucket, with a gauze or nylon screen on the top. (This is to prevent moths laying their eggs in the culture.) Non processed bran is the most suitable diet for the mealworms. Small amounts of moisture are desirable for the culture, e.g., a slice of potato or apple once per week will provide the required amount, however this must be removed when the piece is replaced.

Approximately 40-50 larvae should be retained in each culture. In later stages of maturity, change the food every two weeks. When the larvae are ready to pupate, they will come to the surface.



***Supporting Products for
Mealworms:***

Preserved Material
Code: PM 8.658 Meal-
worm Beetle

Ref: L 3.94 20/3/09