

Rearing insects: Some personal insights

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In the past 30 years Lepidoptera, Chrysomelids, Curculionids, Psyllids, Tephritids, Acarina, Coleoptera, Thrips, Tingids and Hymenoptera insects have been successfully reared as part of the biological control of weeds. Here are some lessons learnt along the way. Moisture is always important, pairing of adults can influence oviposition and fecundity, cage size, lighting and heating regimes and food supplies can all influence the success or failure of rearing insects. The paper gives some general criteria that may help those involved in rearing insects.

