



Introduction

Leaf insects are gentle, fascinating creatures that thrive when given the right environment. This guide covers everything you need to care for them successfully in the UK.

Species Overview

- **Common species:** *Phyllium philippinicum*
- **Lifespan:** 6–10 months
- **Temperament:** Calm, slow-moving
- **Difficulty:** Beginner-friendly

Enclosure Requirements

- **Nymphs:** 20 × 20 × 30 cm
- **Adults:** 30 × 30 × 45 cm
- Good airflow is essential
- Mesh lids or side ventilation recommended
- Suitable substrates: kitchen roll, coco fibre, orchid bark, sphagnum moss

Temperature & Humidity

- **Temperature:** 22–26°C
- **Humidity:** 60–80%
- Mist lightly once per day

Food Plants (UK Safe)

- Bramble (blackberry)
- Raspberry leaves
- Rose leaves
- Hawthorn
- Oak (young leaves)

Replace food every 3–5 days and wash leaves before use.

Egg Care

- Temperature: 22–26°C
- Humidity: 60–70%
- Keep eggs on the surface — do not bury
- Hatching time: 4–6 months (sometimes up to 8)

Nymph Care

- Provide plenty of vertical climbing branches
- Humidity: 70–80%
- Offer soft, young leaves
- Ensure they can hang freely to moult

Adult Care

- Mist once daily
- Replace food regularly
- Handle gently — they are fragile

Common Problems

- **Mould:** Increase ventilation
- **Failed moults:** Maintain humidity and provide vertical space
- **Not eating:** Switch to bramble

Quick Reference

- Temp: 22–26°C
- Humidity: 60–80%
- Food: Bramble, rose, raspberry
- Mist: Daily
- Eggs: 4–6 months to hatch