Great care is taken in selecting cocoons for breeding; white cocoons are kept separate from yellow ones, and with each description the best are chosen. Male and female cocoons are put together in small cloth bags which are hung on pegs round the room; when the moths are laying their eggs, great care is taken not to disturb them.

During the winter the eggs are usually placed in an old sheep-skin hat, and are deposited in a box in a fairly warm room, where there is no fear of their being frozen.