

Types of Silkworms

A. Mulberry Silkworm (*Bombyx mori*)

- Feeds only on mulberry leaves.
- Produces the finest quality mulberry silk (soft, smooth, shiny).
- Mostly reared in India, China, Japan.
- Cocoon color – white or yellow.

B. Non-Mulberry Silkworms (*Wild Silks*)

These feed on leaves of different forest trees (not mulberry).

1. Tasar Silk (*Antheraea mylitta*, *Antheraea pernyi*)

- Feeds on Arjun, Asan, Oak leaves.
- Silk is coppery-brown, coarse, and strong.

2. Eri Silk (*Samia ricini*)

- Feeds on castor leaves.
- Silk is white, soft, warm (also called “Ahimsa silk” because cocoon is not killed).

3. Muga Silk (*Antheraea assamensis*)

- Found in Assam.
- Golden-yellow, glossy, very durable.