

Carnivorous Plants

A CAROLINA™ CareSheet

Habitat Setup and Maintenance

Butterworts, pitcher plants, sundews, and Venus flytraps require a humid environment. Grow them in a covered glass terrarium or similar container.

Cover the bottom of the terrarium with 1 to 2" of gravel or small stones. Add a few inches of acidic soil covered with sphagnum moss—or good garden soil mixed with peat moss—and slope it toward one end of the terrarium. Plant the living sphagnum supplied with our Carnivorous Bog Terrarium Plant Set (item #163720) in clumps around the bases of the carnivorous plants.

Excessive handling will injure the carnivorous plants. If the plants are dirtied in planting, gently remove bits of sphagnum with forceps, and flush soil off the leaves with a light stream of water from a syringe or medicine dropper.

Water the terrarium with de-ionized water, spring water, rainwater, well water, or melted snow. Tap water treated for human consumption may contain chemicals that will kill or seriously injure the plants. Keep soil moist but not soggy.

Ordinary room temperature is adequate. Direct sunlight for 1 to 2 hours per day may be helpful in developing the colors in carnivorous plants; however, the high temperatures that direct sunlight can produce in terraria will kill the plants. Avoid exposing the plants to extreme heat or prolonged direct sunlight.

FAQ's

What do I feed my carnivorous plants?

Although you may feed them insects or ground meat, to our knowledge feeding is not necessary. Carnivorous plants live, as do other green plants, on water, air, minerals, and sunlight.

Why do carnivorous plants trap insects?

Most carnivorous plants grow in bogs where the soils are poor in nitrates and phosphates. Carnivorous plants are thought to get at least part, if not all, of their nitrogenous materials from the digestion of animal prey.

The leaves are turning black. What am I doing wrong?

The plant needs time to adjust to transplanting; it does not mean that the plant is dead. New growth will probably become evident in 2 to 3 weeks.

How can I keep my carnivorous plant growing?

The directions given above will help keep your plants growing for a while. Growing carnivorous plants continuously requires specialized care. We recommend that you consult books for specific techniques.

Problems? We hope not, but if so contact us. We want you to have a good experience.

Orders and replacements: 1-800-334-5551 then select Customer Service

Technical Support and Questions: caresheets@carolina.com

CAROLINA

World-Class Support for Science & Math

© 2008 Carolina Biological Supply Company