

# Carnivorous Plants

## Carolina™ CareSheet

North American carnivorous plants are native to peat bogs. They require a humid atmosphere and moist, acidic soil of low mineral content. Maintain them in a terrarium or greenhouse for best results. We ship carnivorous plants in pots. *Utricularia* (bladderwort, included in our item #156572 Aquatic Plants Set) is an exception. It is aquatic, so we ship it in water. Maintain *Utricularia* in an aquarium or in individual containers of water. Follow the instructions below for maintaining other carnivorous plants.

### Habitat setup and maintenance

Cover the bottom of a terrarium with 1 to 2 inches of gravel or small stones. Add a few inches of acidic soil and slope it toward 1 end of the terrarium. A good garden soil or potting mix combined with an equal amount of peat moss or sphagnum moss makes an excellent acidic soil. Avoid potting mixes with added fertilizers as these may kill carnivorous plants. Cover the acidic soil with a layer of sphagnum moss.

**Note:** *Carolina supplies living sphagnum with our item #163720 Carnivorous Bog Terrarium Plant Set. Plant the set's living sphagnum in clumps around the bases of the carnivorous plants.*

Excessive handling injures carnivorous plants. With forceps, gently remove any bits of sphagnum remaining on the plants after planting. Flush soil off the leaves with a light stream of water from a syringe or dropper.

Use deionized water, springwater, rainwater, well water, or tap water treated with a chemical dechlorinator for carnivorous plants. These are bog plants, so the soil should be soggy. Carnivorous plants should be bottom watered. Sundews and butterworts suffer damage if their leaves remain wet for a long period.

Ordinary room temperature is adequate. Direct sunlight for 1 to 2 hours per day may help develop the colors in carnivorous plants. **Note:** *Direct sunlight on terraria can produce high temperatures capable of killing the plants. Avoid exposing the plants to extreme heat or prolonged direct sunlight.*

Ventilation is necessary. While covering the terrarium helps maintain high humidity, provide a vent for air circulation.

### FAQs

#### **What do I feed my carnivorous plants?**

Carnivorous plants live—as do other green plants—on water, air, minerals, and sunlight. Feeding them is not necessary, but it is a fun activity. Feed them living or dead soft-bodied insects. Large insects and excessive feeding will kill the leaves of the Venus flytrap. Raw meat may contain salt and preservatives that can harm or kill carnivorous plants.

#### **Why have these plants developed the ability to 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. If the old leaves die back, 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 period of time. Growing carnivorous plants continuously requires specialized care. We recommend consulting books for specific techniques.®

### **Problems?**

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

**Orders and replacements:** Call 800.334.5551, then select Customer Service.

**Technical support and questions:** E-mail [caresheets@carolina.com](mailto:caresheets@carolina.com).



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