

Carnivorous Plants

A guide to caring for Venus Flytrap, Pitcher Plant, Sundews, Butterwort, and more



At a Glance

Identify your plant and research its native growing conditions for complete care instructions.

Sun: Full, direct

Water: Soil should be constantly moist, but not soggy.

Pruning: Remove blackened cups and traps.

Dormancy: Allow your plant to spend 6-10 weeks in a cool, dark environment during the winter.

Identify Your Plant

Whether you're growing a Venus Flytrap, a Pitcher Plant, Sundew, or Butterwort, a good place to start is searching for details on the plant's species. This will help you determine the precise needs for your individual plant based on its native growing environment.

Basic Care

- 1. Sun:** Carnivorous plants love full, direct sun in the warm months.
- 2. Water:** They grow in boggy conditions and need constant moisture. Keep pots on a tray with a small amount of water. This allows them to draw moisture through their pot's drainage holes and lessens chances of the plant drying out. Another thing to keep in mind is that some plants are sensitive to the minerals in hard water and will do best with distilled or filtered water.
- 3. Fertilizer:** None! The only food needed is a few insects per year.
- 4. Soil:** Carnivorous plants prefer acidic soil. They will do well with a mix of 50/50 peat (or coconut coir) and perlite. They grow in nutrient-poor soil, so their growing media should not be nutrient-dense.
- 5. Pruning:** As carnivorous plants mature, insect traps and cups will blacken and die. Trim the dead parts back, and new growth should appear in approximately 6 weeks or less.
- 6. Dormancy:** Carnivorous plants require a period of about 6-10 weeks of dormancy in the winter. Leaves can be cut back, and the bulb can be put inside of an unsealed plastic baggie in the refrigerator. To repot after winter, place the plant in a pot of the same size filled with peat or coconut coir and perlite and place it in a warm, sunny window. You should see new growth in a couple weeks. If not, try covering loosely with a plastic baggie.
- 7. Prey:** Feeding your carnivorous plant is only necessary for flower production, and for some species to mature. It should not take the place of its more crucial need for adequate sun and water. That said, a few insects (flies, moths, etc.) per year should suffice.