



# Carnivorous Plant Care

With thanks to Hawaiian Botanicals <http://www.hawaiianbotanicals.com/carnivorous.html>

## Introduction:

With the exception of Antarctica, carnivorous plants are indigenous to every continent on earth. Their habitats range from the steamy jungles of Borneo to the chilly bogs of northern Canada. Despite this wide variation in climate and geographical location, the habitats of carnivorous plants often exhibit certain similarities. Typically, the soil of a carnivorous plant habitat is nutrient-poor. Carnivorous plants have adapted to this environment by using insects and other creatures as their main source of nutrients (in addition to photosynthesis).

## Dionaea muscipula (Venus Flytrap):

*Dionaea muscipula* is endemic to a relatively small region of peaty savannas in southeastern North Carolina and northeastern South Carolina.

In their native environment, Venus Flytraps often experience frost during the winter months and are considered to be a 'warm-temperate' species. For this reason, in autumn it's customary to place potted flytraps in a cool location in order to trigger winter dormancy.

During their growing season, flytraps need bright light and should be kept constantly damp.



## Drosera (Sundews):

Sundews are indigenous to a wide range of climatic zones, from the Canadian and Alaskan subarctic to the tropical rainforests of northern Australia.

There are many subtropical and tropical species suitable for the indoor terrarium or a sunny windowsill. Some species of Sundews, such as *Drosera capensis* (Cape Sundew), are excellent beginner's plants, due to their ease of cultivation.

Sundews are not fussy plants in regards to media; a 50/50 mix of peat moss and coarse sand works well for the majority of *Drosera* species.



### **Nepenthes (tropical pitcher plant):**

The majority of *Nepenthes* species are indigenous to southeast Asia, although their range extends from northeastern Australia to northern India.

In their native habitat, *Nepenthes* are found at a variety of altitudes, from sea level up to an altitude of 3000 meters (10,000 ft) depending upon the species. In the tropics, the climate can change dramatically as the elevation increases. In an indoor environment, *Nepenthes* do best in a humid location. Frequent misting can help to compensate for lack of humidity.

Our *Nepenthes* plants are potted in New Zealand long-fiber sphagnum moss.



### **Pinguicula (Butterworts):**

Most *Pinguicula* species are native to the Northern Hemisphere. Mexico is home to the most diverse selection of Butterworts.

In the wild, Butterworts are indigenous to a variety of climatic zones, from the subarctic to the Caribbean tropics. The habitat of *Pinguicula* is equally diverse, as Butterworts can be found in the wet, peaty bogs of northern Canada as well as the hot, dry calcareous cliffs of southern Mexico.

*Pinguicula* species produce some of the most vibrant, striking flowers of the carnivorous plant world.



### **Sarracenia (North American Pitcher Plant):**

The genus *Sarracenia* contains 8 species. *Sarracenia* species cross-pollinate readily and the hybrid offspring is also fertile. This has resulted in a plethora of natural and man-made hybrids.

All *Sarracenia* species and hybrids can be overwintered outdoors in the zone 8 areas of the Pacific northwest, provided that they are planted in bogs or large containers. These plants grow best in a sunny location.

We use a 50/50 mix of Canadian peat most and coarse sand as our potting media for *Sarracenia* plants. The media should always be damp.

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