



Venus Fly-trap Care Instructions

Since Venus fly-traps are carnivorous, they can be a fun and interesting plant to grow. Here are care tips to keep them thriving.

LIGHT/PLACEMENT: Flytraps like conditions that replicate their native habitat which is warm, sunny, wet, and humid. They do well when grown in plastic pots with drainage holes. They prefer bright light, even direct sun. From spring through fall, they will do better outdoors if slowly acclimated to full sun after danger of frost has passed in spring. Grown indoors, they need supplemental light provided by grow lights unless the window is very sunny with plenty of direct sun. Flytraps can be grown in a terrarium, but, if grown outdoors here in NC, it is not required. Watch that they don't rot or stagnate if you do grow them in a terrarium. Consult our Terrarium Guide for more information and use the soil mix described below.

SOIL: When repotting, use a blend of one-third perlite and/or sand and two-thirds long-fibered sphagnum moss or peat moss to provide the correct ratio of drainage to water retention.

WATERING: Best with distilled water, water treated by reverse osmosis, or rainwater. Keep the soil moist but not soggy and don't let the plants sit in deep water for extended periods of time. Water when the moss the plant is planted in feels like it is getting dry on top.

FEEDING: The flytrap only requires an insect (such as a fly or spider) a few times a year but the insect must be alive and small enough to fit comfortably inside the trap so it can close tightly around it. Do not use commercial fertilizers or soil with fertilizer in it. Do not feed them during winter. If you are keeping the plants outside, they do not need to be fed as they will capture their food on their own.

WINTER CARE: Flytraps need a period of dormancy. Leave them outside until November. Then put the plant into a sealed bag and then store it in the refrigerator until spring making sure the rootball stays moist. Afterwards, take the flytrap from the fridge and repot it using soil as described above. If you bought the plant in winter, wait until the following to put them outside or in the refrigerator.

For much more information about growing flytraps and other carnivorous plants, visit this website: www.sarracenia.com.



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