



# GROW DROSERA - HARDY SUNDEWS

**No terrariums. No myths. No nonsense.**

*Just the straight facts from guys who grow and propagate thousands of carnivorous plants every year.*

## RANGE

The United States is home to several species of cold-hardy sundews: *Drosera anglica*, *D. brevifolia*, *D. filiformis*, *D. intermedia*, *D. linearis*, *D. capillaris*, *D. rotundifolia*, and *D. tracyi*. They are found in various regions, from the Cascade Mountains of Washington to the coastal plains of North Carolina. Some species are also native to the New England states and southern areas of Canada. *D. binata dichotoma* Giant Staghorn, another hardy sundew, is native to southern Australia and New Zealand. While there are particular idiosyncrasies that characterize some of the varieties, the general care is the same for each of them.

## WHERE TO GROW

As a cold-hardy perennial, your plant grows best outdoors as a container or potted plant. You may also grow it in a pond or fountain, but avoid submerging the plant. The water level should remain below halfway up the pot. Because of its specific soil requirements, avoid planting it directly in the ground.

## SUNLIGHT

The smaller sundews, under 4 inches tall, can grow well in partial sun (4 hours or more of direct sunlight). The larger species, such as *D. filiformis*, *D. tracyi*, and *D. dichotoma* Giant Staghorn, require full sun (6 or more hours of direct sunlight) to maintain their dewy appearances and upright leaves. With these larger species, when in doubt, give more sunlight.

## HEAT TOLERANCE

Most cold-hardy sundews, such as *D. filiformis*, *D. intermedia*, *D. tracyi*, and *D. dichotoma* Giant Staghorn, tolerate the summer heat well. They originate from an area where temperatures above 90°F (32°C) commonly occur in summer. Other sundews, such as *D. rotundifolia* and *D. anglica*, prefer mild temperatures.

## WATER

Sundews require mineral-free water. If your tap water is relatively pure (less than 50 parts per million in dissolved minerals), you can safely water your sundews with it. Otherwise, use bottled distilled water. You can also use rainwater, deionized water, and water filtered through a reverse osmosis unit. Keep the soil wet at all times, even during winter dormancy. You can do this by setting the plant in a shallow tray of standing water. Just make sure the water level remains below halfway up the pot.

## SOIL

Use equal parts sphagnum peat moss and perlite. Never use potting soil, compost, or fertilizer; they will kill your plants.

## WINTER CARE

Your sundew will stop growing in late summer, and its leaves will gradually turn black. These are signs that your plant will soon be dormant, a similar process when a rose bush goes dormant and drops its leaves in fall. Eventually, it will form a small resting bud, called a hibernaculum, resting on the soil surface. While dormant, your sundew can withstand episodes of overnight frosts down to 20°F. If daytime temperatures are projected to rise above freezing, you don't need to protect it from these overnight frosts. However, protection is required during prolonged freezes to prevent dehydration or freeze drying, regardless of USDA zone. Covering your plant with a tarp or black plastic sheet will be sufficient if the freeze is expected to last for a week or less, which is typical for USDA zones 7 and 8. Otherwise, mulch may be required if you live in a region where freezing temperature is a way of life, such as in USDA zones 6 and colder.

Need more information about winter care? Watch the **Volume 1 playlist** and **monthly videos**. Our digital download, **The Ultimate Carnivorous Plant Guide for Beginners**, is also a fantastic resource if you are new to growing plants. You will learn how various elements – sunlight, water, soil, and humidity – affect plant growth and what to pay attention to during winter dormancy. Visit the website to access these resources.

**Growcarnivorousplants.com**