



GROW HARDY SUNDEWS

No terrariums. No myths. No nonsense.

Just practical advice from guys who have been growing and propagating thousands of carnivorous plants every year since 1995.

RANGE

Cold-hardy sundews occur throughout much of North America. Depending on the species, they grow in sunny bogs, fens, wet meadows, and other nutrient-poor wetlands where the soil remains consistently moist.

WHERE TO GROW

Grow hardy sundews outdoors in a sunny location. They are temperate perennials and require seasonal changes, including a winter dormancy. They are excellent companions for Sarracenia and Venus flytraps in containers and bog gardens.

SUNLIGHT

Provide at least 6 hours of direct sunlight during the growing season. Full sun encourages compact growth, strong coloration, and abundant dew. If a sundew loses its characteristic sticky dew during active growth, inadequate light is one of the first things to check.

TEMPERATURE

Hardy sundews tolerate a wide range of seasonal temperatures. Summer heat is generally not a problem when plants receive adequate sunlight, and their soil remains wet. These plants are adapted to cool autumn temperatures, frost, and winter freezing as part of their normal annual growth cycle.

WATER

Keep the soil consistently wet during active growth. Pots may stand in approximately 1–2 inches of water. Use rainwater, distilled water, deionized water, or water filtered through a reverse-osmosis system if your tap water contains high levels of dissolved minerals.

SOIL

Use a nutrient-poor carnivorous plant soil. A traditional mixture of sphagnum peat moss and perlite or silica sand works well. Never use conventional potting soil, compost, or soil containing fertilizer.

WINTER CARE

Hardy sundews are perennial plants and require a winter dormancy. As the days shorten in late summer and fall, growth slows and the leaves gradually turn brown or black. Most species eventually form a compact resting bud, called a hibernaculum, at the soil surface.

This seasonal dieback is normal and does not mean the plant is dying. New growth emerges from the resting bud in spring.

During dormancy, keep hardy sundews outdoors whenever your climate permits. Established plants tolerate frost and freezing temperatures, and the soil may freeze during cold weather. Keep the soil moist throughout winter, but it does not need to remain as wet as during the growing season.

Container-grown plants may require protection during prolonged or severe freezes. The primary concern is not simply freezing, but dehydration from cold, drying winds and repeated cycles of freezing and thawing. The amount of protection needed will depend on your winter climate.

Since 1995, we've dedicated our nursery to growing, propagating, and sharing practical knowledge about carnivorous plants. We hope this guide gives you the confidence to grow your plants successfully for years to come. As we continue learning in our nursery, we update our educational resources to ensure they remain accurate, practical, and based on real-world experience. Visit our website for updated care guides, seasonal growing advice, educational videos, and answers to common growing questions.

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