



GROW SARRACENIA

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

Sarracenia, the North American pitcher plants, are native to open wetlands throughout much of eastern North America. Most species occur in the southeastern United States, particularly along the Gulf and Atlantic coastal plains. *Sarracenia purpurea* extends much farther north through the northeastern United States and Canada. These plants grow naturally in sunny, wet, nutrient-poor habitats and go dormant during winter.

WHERE TO GROW

Grow *Sarracenia* outdoors year-round where they can experience natural seasonal changes in temperature and day length. Containers on a sunny deck, patio, or balcony work well. Pots may also be placed along the edge of a pond or water garden, provided the crown remains above the waterline. Avoid planting them directly into ordinary garden soil.

SUNLIGHT

Provide full sun with 6 or more hours of direct sunlight during the growing season. A minimum of 4 hours is acceptable if the plant receives bright light for the remainder of the day, but plants grown in full sun generally produce stronger growth and better coloration. A good rule of thumb is to give *Sarracenia* the same amount of sunlight you would give a tomato plant.

WATER

Use rainwater, distilled water, deionized water, reverse-osmosis water, or tap water containing less than 50 ppm of dissolved minerals.

Keep the soil wet during active growth. The easiest method is to place the pot in a shallow tray of water, keeping the water level no more than halfway up the pot.

SOIL

Use equal parts sphagnum peat moss and perlite. Never use conventional potting soil, compost, or soil containing fertilizer.

WINTER CARE

Sarracenia are temperate perennials and require a winter dormancy each year. As temperatures cool and days shorten in fall, growth slows and many pitchers gradually turn brown. This is a normal part of the plant's seasonal growth cycle.

During dormancy, keep your *Sarracenia* outdoors whenever your climate permits. The 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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