



GROW TROPICAL BUTTERWORTS

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

Most tropical butterworts found in cultivation originate from Mexico, particularly the mountainous regions of south-central Mexico where the genus reaches its greatest diversity. Other tropical and subtropical species occur throughout Central America, the Caribbean, Florida, and parts of South America. They vary tremendously in size and form, but all share sticky insect-catching leaves and conspicuous flowers.

WHERE TO GROW

Grow tropical butterworts indoors on a bright windowsill where they receive several hours of gentle direct sunlight. An east-facing window with morning sun is often ideal. They prefer mild temperatures and should be protected from excessively hot afternoon sun through glass.

Normal household humidity is generally sufficient. Tropical *Pinguicula* do not require high humidity or a terrarium. Constantly humid conditions combined with wet soil and poor air circulation can increase the risk of rot.

SUNLIGHT

Grow your tropical butterwort in a few hours of direct sunlight and dappled sun during the rest of the day whenever possible. Avoid the blazing hot afternoon sun during the summer months.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHTS

If a sunny window is unavailable, use white LED shop lights with an output of approximately 2,500 lumens or more. Specialized red-and-blue grow lights are not necessary. Start with the lights approximately 12 inches above the plants and adjust the height according to their growth. Use an electrical timer to provide approximately 14 hours of light each day during active growth.

WATER

Tropical butterworts are prone to rot if their soil remains excessively wet. Keep the soil lightly moist by watering from the top when the surface begins to feel dry. Do not allow the soil to dry out completely during active growth. You may also use the tray method with no more than about 1/2 inch of water. Allow the tray to dry completely before adding more water.

SOIL

Use a coarse mix of approximately 1 part sphagnum peat moss to 2 parts perlite. Never use conventional potting soil, compost, or soil containing fertilizer.

Winter Growth

Many tropical *Pinguicula*, particularly Mexican species, produce a smaller rosette of thick, succulent-like leaves as the days shorten. This is a normal seasonal growth phase, not a sign that the plant is dying. Because these succulent leaves use less water, reduce the frequency of watering and allow the soil to become somewhat drier between watering. When larger carnivorous leaves resume, gradually return to your normal active-growth watering routine.

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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