



GROW TROPICAL 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

Tropical sundews originate from warm climates of the world, such as South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and South America. In their native habitat, frost never or rarely occurs, and it never snows. Their preferred habitat is mostly open, wet fields, or cliff-side seeps where they can get lots of sunlight.

WHERE TO GROW

Many tropical sundews grown in cultivation are adaptable and can easily be grown as a houseplant on a sunny windowsill. If you live in a tropical climate where the temperature rarely drops below 55°F (13°C), you have the option of growing your plants outdoors. Regardless of where you grow them, always protect tropical sundews from excessive wind, blazing hot sunlight, and freezing temperatures.

SUNLIGHT

Some sundews, such as those of the fork-leaf complex, grow best in full sun and warm temperatures. However, most sundews are mountainous species, such as those native to South Africa and South America. So, they like lots of sunlight but mild temperatures. Provide partial sunlight (several hours of direct sunlight with bright filtered light during the day). While it's important to avoid extremely hot summer sunlight, avoid full shade. Sufficient sunlight is required for your plant to maintain its dewy appearance.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHTS

If a sunny window is not possible, use LED shop lights with an output of approximately 2,500 lumens or more. Avoid full-spectrum or so-called plant lights. These lights have red and blue diodes which can strain your eyes and do not significantly contribute to your plant's overall health any more than shop lights with white diodes. Start with the lights approximately 12 inches above the plant. Monitor your plant and adjust the height of the light source if you are not satisfied with its growth. Use an electrical timer to set a 14-hour daylight cycle.

HUMIDITY

Most commonly grown tropical sundews adapt well to normal household humidity. A terrarium is unnecessary. If your plant produces little or no dew, check its light first; increasing humidity will not compensate for inadequate light.

WATER

All sundews require low-mineral water. If your tap water is relatively pure (less than 50 parts per million in dissolved minerals), then you can safely water your sundews with it. Otherwise, you can use distilled bottled water, rainwater, deionized water, or water filtered through a reverse-osmosis unit.

SOIL

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

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.

Growcarnivorousplants.com