



# GROW VENUS FLYTRAPS

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

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

## RANGE

The Venus flytrap is a cold-hardy perennial native to the 90-mile (145-km) radius around **Wilmington, North Carolina**, growing in the sunny, coastal wetland savanna. That region gets very hot in summer and can see snow in winter. Like other perennials native to North Carolina, such as roses and lilies, Venus flytraps go dormant in winter and resume growth in spring.

## WHERE TO GROW

As a cold-hardy perennial, the Venus flytrap 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

Your flytrap requires full sun (6 or more hours of unobstructed, direct sunlight) for vigorous growth during the growing season. If full sun is not possible, your plant can maintain adequate growth with partial sun (4-6 hours of direct sunlight). However, it won't be as robust, healthy, and colorful as one grown in full sun. The rule of thumb is to grow it in the same sunlight as a tomato plant. When in doubt, give more sun.

## HEAT TOLERANCE

Your flytrap will tolerate the summer heat very well. Remember, it is native to the coastal plains of North Carolina where sweltering summers with temperatures above 90°F (32°C) can occur. It's even possible to grow these a flytrap in the desert Southwest. Visit the Venus flytrap care page on our website to watch our playlist on Venus flytraps.

## WATER

Your flytrap requires water low in minerals. If your tap water is relatively pure (less than 50 parts per million in dissolved minerals), you can safely water your flytrap 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. An inch or two of water is sufficient. 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 flytrap will stop growing in early fall, and some upright traps will 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. While dormant, your flytrap 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.

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