



GROW VENUS FLYTRAPS

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

The Venus flytrap is a cold-hardy perennial native to a small region surrounding Wilmington, North Carolina, where it grows in sunny, wet coastal savannas. 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.

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 rainwater, distilled water, deionized water, or water filtered through a reverse-osmosis system.

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

Venus flytraps are temperate perennials and require a winter dormancy each year. As temperatures cool and days shorten in fall, growth will slow and some traps will gradually turn black and die back. This is a normal part of the plant's seasonal growth cycle.

During dormancy, keep your Venus flytrap outdoors whenever your climate permits. The plant tolerates 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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