

PITCHER PLANT PREDATORS™



*Planting, Care,
Variety, and
Garden Information*

PITCHER PLANT PREDATORS™



Grow your own collection of feared and famous meat eating plants. This deluxe edition has seeds from five different kinds of carnivorous Pitcher Plants including The Hooded Pitcher Plant, the Purple Pitcher Plant, and the Pale Trumpet. Watch these fascinating plants grow from harmless seeds into vicious bug-eating monsters!

Make your own authentic bog with the included peat planting mix, blue Swamp Rocks™, and companionable Bog Buddy™. With proper care, this rare and unusual collection of carnivorous plants will flourish for years in the specially designed terrarium.

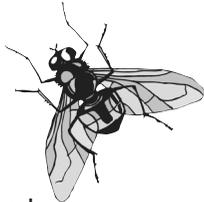
Contents included with your Pitcher Plant Predators™

Planting terrarium
Bag of peat-based planting mixture
Color pack of mixed Pitcher Plant seeds (8 mg)
Bag of blue Swamp Rocks™
Colorful Bog Buddy™
Instructions and growing manual

How do Pitcher Plants Work?

Like all plants, carnivorous plants use the sun to produce energy through photosynthesis. However, these plants grow in peat bogs where there are no additional minerals and nutrients in the soil. Over time, carnivorous plants thrived as they began to catch insects to get much-needed minerals and nutrients.

Pitcher plants attract their prey with an intoxicating nectar that is excreted from the hood of a funnel. When small insects touch tiny hairs of the plant, they set off triggers that cause the trap to close, making escape impossible. Once the insects enter the Pitcher, they cannot escape because of the downward pointing hairs on the inside of the hood and the slippery wax coating on the inside of the Pitcher's tube. The unfortunate insect meets its doom when it falls into the pool of liquid in the base of the funnel and is digested by enzymes excreted by the plant.

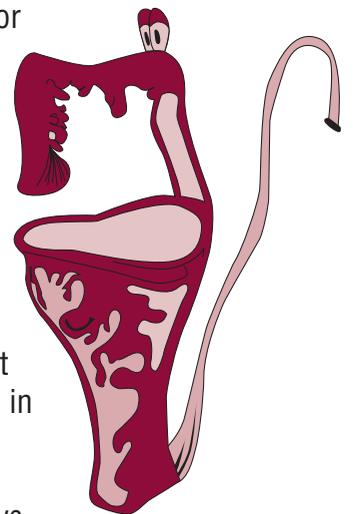


How to Grow Your Pitcher Plants from Seed

- Massage the bag of planting mixture in order to remove any clumps that may have formed during shipping.
- Empty the bag's contents carefully into the base of the terrarium. Remove and dispose of any large clumps that remain, leaving only fine peat moss.
- Add 1 cup of distilled or rain water and mix with soil.
- Press and smooth soil gently so there are no clumps on the surface of the soil.
- Spread Swamp Rocks™ to create streams throughout your carnivorous bog.
- Place you Bog Buddy™ in the terrarium.
- **The seeds are extremely small. Use great care when handling them.** Fold a piece of paper once and carefully empty the packet's contents onto the paper. Tap the pack gently to release all the seeds of the envelope and collect them in the crease of the paper.
- Scatter the seeds directly onto the surface of the soil.
- **Place terrarium in the refrigerator and leave for 8 weeks before continuing the planting procedure. This is know as stratification.**
- Sprinkle 1/2 cup of water on top of the seeds.
- Place the lid on your terrarium.
- Place in a warm, bright area that is not in direct sunlight; an eastern or southern exposure is best. A western exposure will provide too much light and a northern exposure will not provide enough warmth and light.
- Germination will take 3 to 6 weeks after your remove the terrarium from the refrigerator.

Caring for Your Carnivorous Plants

- It is best to water your carnivorous plants with rainwater or distilled water. If you must use tap water, leave it in an open container for a few days to allow the disinfecting agent to escape.
- Your carnivorous plants like to be kept wet. The included terrarium is the perfect environment for them.
- Your plants will flourish in the provided terrarium with or without food. If you do not feed them flies, fertilize them in the spring when new growth begins to appear.
- It is good for the plants to have the lid removed for a day every month or two to prevent the growth of fungus. Also, if your terrarium is left in the heat and sun for any period of time, remove the lid to prevent the buildup of excessively high temperatures.
- The plants like to be kept cooler in the winter, 45 to 60 degrees, and warmer in the summer, 75 to 80 degrees.
- If you do not plan to use the seeds for a while, store them in the refrigerator, not the freezer.
- The biggest danger to your seedlings will be gray mold. It will look like a damp, gray fluff and typically strikes in cooler conditions. You can remove the mold or water the surface of the soil with a 1:50 mixture of hydrogen peroxide and water. If mold starts to appear, reduce the moisture and water the plants with a mixture of one capful of hydrogen peroxide to seven ounces of water. This will kill the mold but not the plant.



- Carnivorous plants are perennials and need a dormant period at least once a year. The plant will begin to die back naturally. This is normal. Simply remove the greenhouse top, remove dead foliage, and place in a refrigerator for two months. You can also place them in an unheated garage for two months if you live in an area with a cold winter. However, the plants cannot be allowed to freeze.
- It is okay to let your pitcher plants dry out more during this dormant period. Water every three weeks or so during the dormant period.
- After two months, water the plants, replace the lid, and place in a window with a southern or eastern exposure.
- If you choose to use artificial lighting for your carnivorous plants, use a fluorescent or compact fluorescent bulb in the color range of 5000 to 6000 Kelvin. A shop light reflector, found at most hardware stores, is also very beneficial to increase the light for the plants. The plants color will be brought out by brighter lights.
- If you decide to transplant your carnivorous plants, it is important to use the correct soil. The planting mixture must not contain anything like compost or reed-sedge peat and must be primarily sphagnum peat moss. Following are two good recipes that you can make yourself:
 - *pure sphagnum peat moss*
 - *four parts sphagnum peat moss, two parts fine Perlite, one part horticultural sand*
- ***Patience is very important when growing carnivorous plants from seed. They may sprout in as early as a couple of weeks, but some may take months.***

Pitcher Plant Predators included in the Deluxe Mixture



Each species in the *Sarracenia* family are similar in many structural aspects, but have variations in color and size.

- Most *Sarracenia* plants grow in the southern United States.
- Plants in the *Sarracenia* family have long, tube-like leaves.
- The colorful veins lead crawling insects up the outside of the tube.
- Insects are attracted to the nectar these plants produce. When they land on the tube-like leaves, the insects lose their traction (nectar is very slippery) and they fall, becoming trapped at the bottom. If they try to fly out, they actually create a vacuum in the narrow tubes forcing them down even further.

Species of *Sarracenia* found in Pitcher Plant Predators

Yellow Trumpet (*Sarracenia flava*):

- The Yellow Trumpet produces large tall flowers and bright yellow leaves.
- This plant will grow 20 to 36 inches tall.
- The Yellow Trumpet's nectar has a chemical in it that produces paralysis when an insect consumes a large quantity.

Hooded Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia minor*):

- Hooded Pitcher Plants are found between southeastern North Carolina and the Florida panhandle.
- They can reach heights between 13 to 19 inches.
- Hooded Pitcher Plants produce yellow flowers that bloom as the first leaves are sprouting.
- The top of the tube has a canopy or a "hood" over it. When the insect falls under the shade of the hood, it is alarmed by the darkness and moves deeper into the plant where it is more translucent.

Sweet Trumpet (*Sarracenia rubra*):

- Sweet Trumpet grows in northern Florida
- The Sweet Trumpet has smaller and weaker tubes in the spring. The summer tubes are larger and stand tall, from 5 to 19 inches.
- Sweet Trumpet produces a sweet smell, like a rose. It produces small red flowers in spring.

Purple Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*):

- The Purple Pitcher Plant is the most common carnivorous plant in North America. It can be found in the Florida panhandle all the way up to Canada.
- The plant can vary in color, from lime green to dark purple
- Purple Pitcher produces red and purple flowers.
- Rainwater collects at the bottom of the tube, drowning any insects that fall in.

Pale Trumpet (*Sarracenia alata*):

- Pale Trumpets can be found in Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas.
- The tubes of the Pale Trumpet are green and upright, and can be as tall as 23 inches.
- The Pale Trumpet's flowers range in color from yellow to creamy white.

Credits:

Color photos used on box, instructions, deals, and seed pack courtesy of Carl Mazur.

Customer Service:

Visit our web site: www.carnivorouscreations.com for more information about this product. Email info@dunecraft.com, or call 1-800-306-4168 with questions.

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