



Planting, Care,
Variety, and
Garden Information

Sundew Savages™



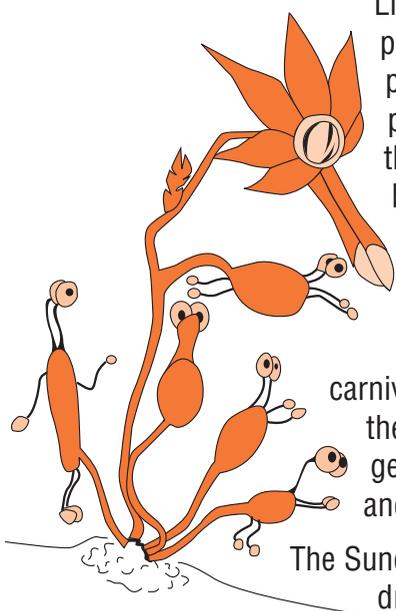
Grow your own collection of feared and famous meat eating plants. This kit features three types of Sundew Plants. Watch these fascinating plants grow from harmless seeds into vicious bug-eating monsters!

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 Sundew Savages™

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

How Do Sundew 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.

The Sundew plant has sparkling drops on its leaves that look very appealing to flies and

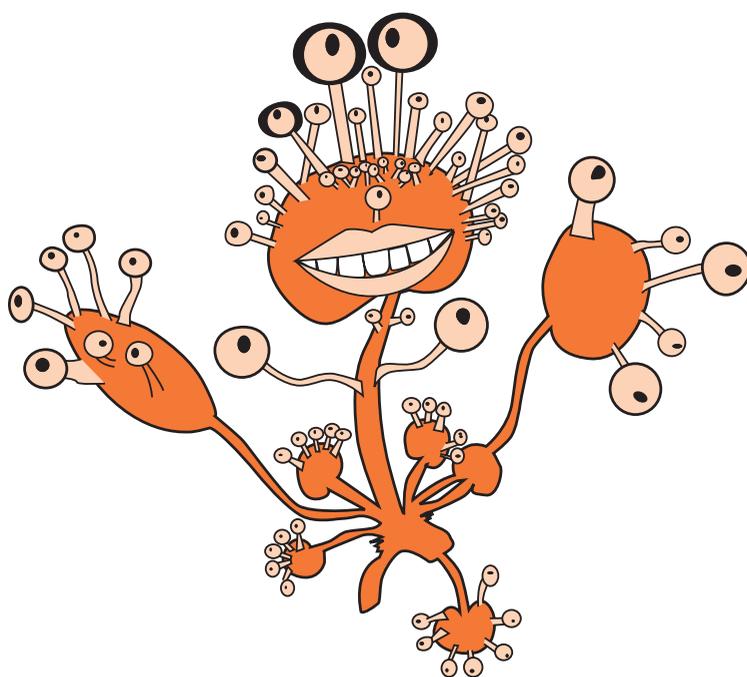
other insects that swarm in numbers over the marshy ground where the Sundew grows. The drops resemble drops of honey, and many insects can't resist the temptation of stopping to refresh themselves. Once a fly lands on one of the Sundew's many sparkling leaves, it quickly becomes entangled in its sticky hairs. As the insect tries to free itself, it continuously touches the Sundew's hairs, triggering glands to pour a regular stream of sticky stuff onto the insect while beginning to bend over the helpless creature. One by one, all the hairs on the leaf

behave in the same way, curling over and holding the insect down in the middle of the leaf. The leaf gradually becomes completely doubled up like a closed fist.

This may sound like a speedy process, but it is not; the Sundew never hurries itself. It can take up to three hours for a leaf to close entirely. The insect dies by suffocation long before the process is complete; since insects breathe through the pores on each side of their body and not through their mouths, they are quickly suffocated by the thick, sticky fluid.

Once the leaf of the Sundew has closed, the insect is slowly dissolved and digested by the fluid poured on its glands in the knobbed hairs, until nothing but empty skin remains. The leaves of the Sundew have a dual purpose: first as a trap to catch the insect and second as a stomach to digest it. It takes the Sundew a day or two to completely finish the captured insect, depending on size. Upon finishing the meal the Sundew's leaf gradually opens again, disclosing the empty skin of the insect. After the insect's skin dries and is blown away, the Sundew is ready for yet another meal.

How to Grow Your Sundew Plants from Seed



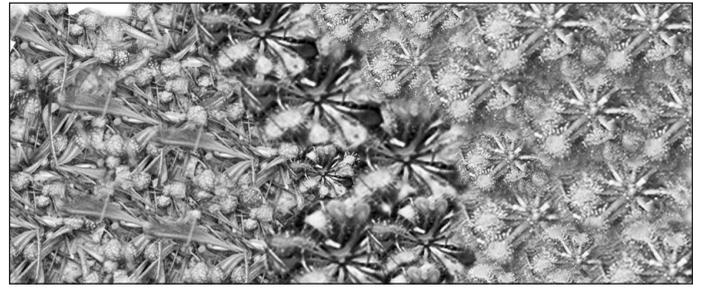
- Massage the bag of planting mixture in order to remove any clumps that may have formed during shipping.
- Empty the bag's contents carefully into the base of the terrarium. Remove and dispose of any large clumps that remain, leaving only fine peat moss.
- Add 1 cup of distilled or rain water and mix 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 you 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.**

The Sundew Savages included in the Deluxe Mixture

Sundew Plants



(*Drosera intermedia*, *Drosera filiformis*, *Drosera rotundifolia*)

- Sundew Plants are found all over the world in many different climates.
- Sundew Plants are all part of the *Drosera* family.
- The three species of Sundew Plants in Carnivorous Creations™ are all classified as Temperate Sundews. Species in this category are easy to grow in many different climates.

Species of *Drosera* found in your Sundew Savages seed mixture:

- *Drosera intermedia* is maroon with white flowers. This plant is found in eastern Canada, the United States, and Europe; a tropical version that does not go dormant is found in Florida, the West Indies, and South America. This plant can reproduce by seed or by cutting off an entire leaf and replanting it.
- *Drosera filiformis* has long and thin leaves that range in height from six to ten inches tall. It has large pink flowers.
- *Drosera rotundifolia* produces white flowers. It is found in Europe, Asia, and much of North America.

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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