

# Insectivorous Plants

## Sundew

**Species:** *adela*  
**Genus:** *Drosera*  
**Family:** Droseraceae  
**Order:** Nepenthales  
**Class:** Magnoliopsida  
**Phylum:** Magnoliophyta  
**Kingdom:** Plantae

## Venus Flytrap

**Species:** *muscipula*  
**Genus:** *Dionaea*  
**Family:** Droseraceae  
**Order:** Caryophyllales  
**Class:** Magnoliopsida  
**Phylum:** Magnoliophyta  
**Kingdom:** Plantae

## Pitcher Plant

**Species:** *leucophylla* Current species supplied.  
*Purpurea* has been supplied in the past.  
**Genus:** *Sarracenia*  
**Family:** Sarraceniaceae  
**Order:** Sarraceniales  
**Class:** Magnoliopsida  
**Phylum:** Magnoliophyta  
**Kingdom:** Plantae

## Bladderwort

**Species:** species vary  
**Genus:** *Utricularia*  
**Family:** Lentibulariaceae  
**Order:** Scrophulariales  
**Class:** Magnoliopsida  
**Phylum:** Magnoliophyta  
**Kingdom:** Plantae



## Conditions for Customer Ownership

We are a USDA compliant facility and hold all necessary permits to transport our organisms. Each state is assisted by the USDA to determine which organisms can be transported across state lines. Some organisms may require end-user permits. Please contact your local regulatory authorities with questions or concerns. To access permit conditions, [click here](#).

**Never purchase living specimens without having a disposition strategy in place.** Live specimens should not be released into the wild! Please dispose of any unwanted organisms using the guidelines below.

## Primary Hazard Considerations

None.

## Availability

- Insectivorous plants are generally available year-round.
- Individual plants are shipped in plastic pots with peat moss. For shipping purposes a cardboard disc is used to hold the plant and soil in place. The potted plant is sealed in a plastic bag and wrapped in corrugated cardboard. Upon receipt remove the potted plant from the bag and remove the cardboard disc. If the soil appears dry, water immediately using rain water only. Tap water or de-chlorinated water will kill the insectivorous plants.
- Bladderwort is shipped in a plastic jar. Remove from the jar upon receipt and place in an established aquarium.

## Care

- Potted insectivorous plants can be kept in a shallow tray. Fill the tray to a depth of 1–2 centimeters with rainwater only. When tray becomes dry, fill again with rainwater only.
- Sundews, Venus Flytraps, and Pitcher Plants are bog plants and require fairly acidic growing conditions, an abundance of water and high humidity. Venus Flytraps should be planted in peat moss (470153-626), placed in direct sunlight and given ample water (rainwater only). Pitcher Plants and Sundews should be planted in a mixture of washed sand (470057-822) and peat moss and also liberally watered (rainwater only). It is recommended that the plants be placed in a terrarium to maintain high humidity.
- **Temperature:** Range of 21–35 °C. **Light:** Indirect sunlight. **Soil:** Peat Moss.
- **Propagation:** Pitcher plants reproduce by seed or may also reproduce by fragmentation of rhizomes. Sundews reproduce vegetatively or by seed. Venus Flytrap reproduce by bulb.

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## Habitat

- Insectivorous plants can be kept in a plastic terrarium or glass aquarium.
- A suitable terrarium can be used as supplied with the insectivorous terrarium (470223-610).
- The insectivorous terrarium should be placed where there is good light, and the plants should be well watered. When watering, be sure to pour water inside the Pitcher Plant to keep it from drying out. **USE RAINWATER ONLY WHEN WATERING YOUR INSECTIVOROUS PLANTS.** If condensation becomes a problem, allow for more air circulation by removing the cover of the terrarium.
- Bladderworts will live in aquaria, requiring only adequate light, preferably sunlight, and a relatively even temperature.

## Life Cycle

- Venus Flytraps are active during May to October. During the winter months a period of dormancy will occur. The foliage of the Venus Flytrap will die at this time and the plant should be kept in an environment of 8–10 °C. An alternative method is to remove the bulb from the plant. Spray the bulb with a fungicide and wrap in damp living sphagnum moss (470014-980), place in a plastic bag and refrigerate 4–6 weeks. Allowing hibernation of the Venus Flytrap will keep the plant healthy. Upon completion of hibernation, repot the bulb in peat moss.

## Wild Habitat

- Venus Flytraps are found in boggy areas of North and South Carolina.
- The Venus Flytrap uses a method along the lines of a steel trap. The insect lands on the trap at the leaf tip and touches one of the trigger hairs. The trap then closes around it. The plant secretes enzymes, which digest the insect. Depending on the size of the insect, the trap will re-open in 5 to 14 days. Closure of the trap can be demonstrated by touching the trigger hairs with the end of a pencil. The trap will re-open in 24 hours. A trap can only re-open a limited number of times before it remains closed.
- Sundews are found in bogs and swamps throughout North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and South Africa. The Sundew has its leaves covered with glandular hairs, which secrete a sticky substance. Small insects adhere to the leaves and adjoining hairs bend over, holding the insect firmly in place. Other glands on the hairs secrete digestive enzymes and the insect is consumed.
- Worldwide there are about 500 species of Pitcher Plants occurring in bogs, savannahs, and flat woods. Pitcher Plants, one of the largest insectivorous plants, have leaves that form horn-shaped pitchers, which partly fill with water. Insects wander into the pitcher and are prevented from leaving by stiff downward pointing hairs. The insects eventually fall into the water and drown. It is not known whether the plant itself secretes digestive enzymes or merely absorbs some of the products of degradation as bacteria breakdown the dead insect.
- The Bladderwort is an aquatic or amphibious herb. Species are found in ponds or sluggish streams over most of eastern North America. Tiny aquatic invertebrates are trapped in special bladder-like modified leaves. These traps are furnished with valvular lids that open inward when triggered by contact. The prey is sucked in with a rush of water, and the valve then closes leaving it trapped in the bladder.

## Disposition

We do not recommend releasing any laboratory specimen into the wild, and especially not specimens that are not native to the environment. When finished with your plant please dispose of it by incineration in a well-ventilated area.