



SARRACENIA CARE GUIDE

Sarracenia are fearsomely efficient flycatchers and easy for beginners to grow - just be sure to care for these basic requirements.

Growing Locations

Sarracenia grow best in full direct sun. As such, they are candidates for only the sunniest of windowsills. The taller varieties need particularly high light levels, while shorter plants will tolerate less sun. They're ideal plants for unheated greenhouses and conservatories. Smaller hardy varieties can be grown outside year-round in the UK - in a bog garden, for example - but the taller species don't cope well with strong winds, so opt for shorter species and hybrids.

Watering

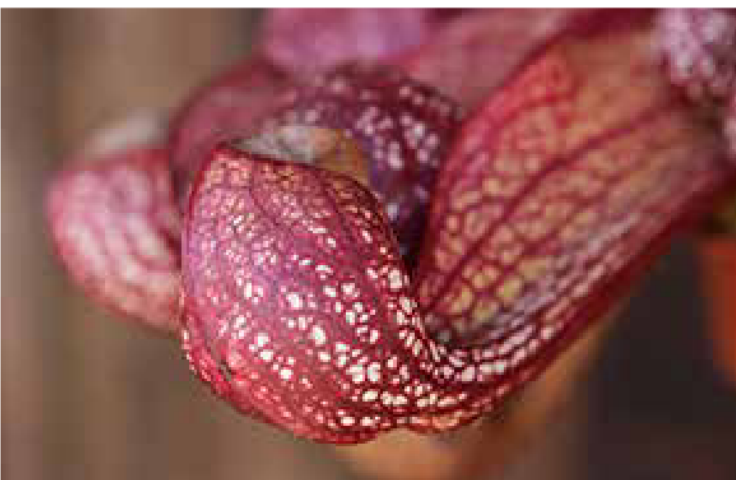
Like many other carnivorous plants, Sarracenia require rainwater, distilled water, or deionised water, and lots of it! Do not use filtered, bottled, or tap water - these will cause your plant to decline. Stand the pots in 2-3cm of water over the growing season, and do not allow them to dry out. In winter, reduce watering and keep them just damp.

Feeding

Kept outside, Sarracenia will catch more than enough food for themselves. The taller trumpet species such as *Sarracenia flava* and *Sarracenia leucophylla* are particularly ruthless, and often fill to the brim with flies, wasps, ants, and moths by the end of the growing season. Never use fertiliser.

Winter Dormancy

All Sarracenia pitcher plants require a cold winter dormancy between November and February. If you keep your plants indoors during the growing season, you will need to move them somewhere colder - next to a window in your shed or garage, for example.



Plants growing in unheated greenhouses can remain there over winter - they tolerate frost well. A sheltered spot outdoors can also work. Keep the soil just damp rather than wet. Old traps will die off gradually - you should trim this old growth regularly to avoid mould.

Potting On

You can re-pot - and even divide your plant - every 2-3 years or so. Use sphagnum peat moss mixed with either lime-free horticultural sand or perlite to a ratio of about 2:1, or buy specialist carnivorous plant compost (see my website).

Pests & Disease

Botrytis or grey mould can get into the rhizome in winter and early spring. You can help prevent this by trimming dead growth regularly, and by maintaining good air circulation. In summer, the nectar produced by the pitchers may go black with harmless sooty mould. This can be removed with a damp cloth. Greenfly are another common pest, particularly on young growth. You can use Provanto Ultimate Bug Killer to tackle them.