

Tom's Carnivores



VENUS FLYTRAP CARE GUIDE

Venus Flytraps are not difficult to grow, providing you take care of several key requirements.

Growing Locations

Venus Flytraps need direct sunlight for healthy growth. If you're growing your plant indoors, choose a bright sunny windowsill, preferably south-facing. They also grow very well in conservatories and unheated greenhouses year-round. Most forms of the Venus Flytrap will tell you they're receiving sufficient sunlight by turning the insides of their traps red during the growing season.

Watering

This is single biggest reason why Venus flytraps will decline. They need pure water to thrive, and bottled or tap water can result in a deadly build-up of minerals. Your best options are rainwater, distilled, or deionised water - see my website for more details. During the growing season, you should stand the pot in about 1-2 cm of water. Never let them dry out during the growing season. During winter they require less water, and the soil should be kept just damp rather than wet.



Feeding

Grown outside, Venus Flytraps will catch food for themselves. If grown indoors then you can feed them with insects, but you should do so only once you've taken care of all their other requirements. Each trap will only catch a few insects before dying back, to be replaced by a new trap. Never use fertiliser.

Potting On

In Spring, you should remove any flower buds, especially if the plant is small. Snip away old dead traps throughout the year. You can re-pot - and even divide your plant - every couple of years. Use sphagnum peat moss mixed with either lime-free horticultural sand or perlite, to a ratio of about 2:1.

Winter Dormancy

In winter, Venus flytraps will go dormant. The leaves will go yellow and then black - this is normal. Snip off dead leaves to prevent mould, and reduce watering to prevent rot. Keep them just damp in a cool place - next to a window in your garage or shed, for example. If properly sheltered from the wind, they can be kept outside and will easily withstand frost.

Pests

In early spring, be on the lookout for signs of greenfly. They often overwinter between the leaves - the first sign may be white specks and distorted leaves. If necessary you can spray with a systemic insecticide like Provanto Ultimate Bug Killer.