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LC-0503



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COMPANY INFORMATION

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CARNIVOROUS COLLECTION™



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GROWING AND CARE INSTRUCTIONS

The Double Bubble gives you more space and double the fun! Perfect for the office or home, these lush miniature landscapes are refreshing sights and make for relaxing scenery all year long. Everything you need to start the fun is contained in your kit. Now get growing and thanks for your purchase!



CONTENTS

- Double Bubble Glass Terrarium
- Carnivorous seed pack
 - Seed Pack 1: Fly Trap seeds to be sown directly
 - Seed Pack 2: Zip-Lock bag with premixed seed and germination mixture for stratification
- Germination Disk
- Care Instructions

STRATIFICATION AND PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

The seeds that required stratification are contained within the germination mixture to make this task very easy for you.

Seed Pack 1: Fly Trap seeds to be sown directly

- Carefully unwrap your Glass Terrarium and place on a solid surface.
- Place your germination disk in a separate container. Add 1 cup of luke warm DISTILLED water. The germination disk will absorb the water and expand into your growing medium.
- *It is best to use distilled water. Carnivorous plants are very sensitive to the sediments found in other types of water and will not produce the desired results*
- After the disk has absorbed the water, carefully use a plastic spoon (not provided) to fill the bottom of your Double Bubble with the germination mixture. Gently use the plastic spoon to push down the growing medium so it is about 1 ½ inches thick and sits firmly on the base of the terrarium. Make sure it does not extend out of the opening. The growing medium should be well moistened, but make sure there are no pockets of standing water.
- Crease a piece of paper and place it on a flat surface. Carefully pour seeds on to the paper from the pack, but be careful and open the seed pack directly over the paper that you have selected to use to avoid losing any of the provided seeds. Carnivorous seeds can be extremely small, before discarding, make sure that you have sown the entire seed supply. Cover the opening with plastic wrap to increase the humidity inside your terrarium.

Tips - If you CAREFULLY hold the terrarium at an upwards angle while planting your seeds it is easier to guide them into the correct positions. Don't forget to leave space to plant seed pack 2 after the stratifying process has finished.

Do not cover the seeds with germination mixture!

Seed Pack 2: Zip-Lock bag with premixed seed and germination mixture for stratification

- Carefully cut open the heat seal on the bag without destroying the zip locking ability of the bag. Slowly add 1 teaspoon of distilled water into the zip lock bag.
- Reseal the bag and gently press the germination mixture, seeds, and water together.
- Once everything in the bag is uniformly mixed, place in your refrigerator (not freezer) for six weeks.
- After six weeks, remove them from the refrigerator and gently empty the bag of mixture and seeds, spreading them on top of the germination mixture in the terrarium. Use a spoon to spread them out evenly. Seeds should be exposed or will be after watering them in. Use as little water as needed, less than ¼ cup should be more than adequate. Replace the plastic wrap and put the terrarium back in your selected location.

GENERAL CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Germination Period (0 to 3 Months)

Most carnivorous plants are slow growers from seed and do require frequent monitoring with consistent maintenance. It is very important to keep them "just moist" during the pre and post germination period. Non-trapping cotyledon leaves (very small/short) are first produced after germination. Then, immature leaves with traps are formed. The seedlings are all very small and will do fine in low light level locations provided they are not kept wet. They naturally grow in dense grasses which provide a shady environment for them. At 3 months, the Venus' Fly Trap should be at least ¼" in diameter. Your Pitcher Plants 1 to 2" tall and the Sundews will be very visible.

Tender Plant Stage (3 to 6 Months)

The 3 to 6-month period is the crucial period for your seedlings. They will be in the process of developing a multiple root system. You can assist them by misting them weekly, with a weak solution of plant food (fertilizer - not provided). The recommended dosage is 1/10 full strength applied as a side spray mist to minimize contact with the soil medium. A common brand used by growers is Miracid, (30-10-10) or its equivalent, but any houseplant fertilizer with the right dilution will work. The amount and how long the seedlings receive light should be increased to approximate the natural mid to late summer growing conditions. You can duplicate this condition by using a basic shop type fluorescent light unit (warm or cool white lamps) placed over and within 3 to 6" of the terrarium. A fourteen-hour period of light will be quite adequate and loved by your seedlings. Day and night temperatures can be increased to and 85-90 degree (F) during the day and 70 degrees (F) at night to duplicate natural habitat conditions. Humidity must be maintained at 50% plus for best results. The seedlings will show great progress during this stage of growth. The Sundews are especially fast growers and will be very impressive.

Trap Development Stage (6 to 12 Months and Beyond)

At this point, the seedlings have well established roots and have developed fully functional traps with the ability to trap bugs. They are now beyond the difficult and critical point of their growth, but still require regular care. The uncovered Terrarium can be placed under partial shade outdoors to trap prey during humid days, provided temperatures are within a comfortable range.

Basic Growing Rules to Follow

- If you do not plan to use the seeds for a while, store them in the refrigerator, as opposed to a freezer.
- Carnivores live in high rainfall areas and like pure water. You won't need much; a gallon will last a long time. Obtain purified, distilled, or use collected rain water if you are unsure if your tap water is pure enough.

GENERAL CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- The top few inches of sandy based peat soils in natural habitats dry out quickly. Water is frequently held well below the surface level. That's why we don't keep the plants totally wet or waterlogged. Young carnivorous plants like to be kept just slightly moist. Once the plants are over 6 months old, you can slightly increase the saturation level of the growing medium.
- Your plants will flourish in the provided terrarium, with or without food. If you do not feed them captured insects, continue with diluted fertilizers. Never feed raw meat to plants due to bacterial growth that will decay the trapping leaf.
- While your Carnivorous Plants will thrive in bright indirect light, they will wilt in the heat of direct sunlight.
- Periodic removal of the plastic wrap to air out the plants and to help prevent fungus growth. This can be done every few day in locations with reasonable humidity levels.
- The plants like to be kept cooler in the winter, 60 degrees, and warmer 75-85 degrees, in the summer.
- 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 by spraying 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.
- If you decide to transplant your carnivorous plants, it is important to use the correct soil. A simple mixture of milled sphagnum peat moss with washed sand (construction, horticultural, or play sand) works well. Never use beach sand as the salt content will render the medium harmful to your plants.
- Insect pests such as aphids and mealy bugs do attack mature pitchers. Diluted soap or oil sprays can safely be used.

WINTERING YOUR MATURE CARNIVOROUS PLANTS

The seeds in your kit are perennials that can live for many years with the proper care. A few of the Sundews in your terrarium will naturally lose all of their leaves and form a protective winter bud that will reopen in the spring. Most of the other species will need a resting or dormancy period after their second growing season. Growth will stop as days become shorter and colder. Old pitchers will wither and brown while Venus' Fly Traps will become much smaller and sluggish. Remove all dead leaves and reduce how often you water them. Simply cut off all dead foliage, cover and place in a refrigerator for ten weeks. You can also place them outdoors or in an unheated garage for ten weeks if you live in an area with a cold, but not extreme winter. The plants cannot be allowed to freeze.

It's okay to let your plants dry out more during this dormancy period. Periodically just add enough water to keep the medium moist. After ten weeks, water the plants, replace the plastic wrap, and place in a window.

OTHER PLANT INFORMATION

Please be aware that except for the Sundews which usually obtain full size within 2 years, the Venus Fly Traps and Pitcher Plants may take from 3 to 5 years before they reach flowering and are near full size. Species names with some brief information on each are provided for your edification.

- Venus Fly Trap (*Dionaea muscipula*): A native of N & S Carolina. Trap size up to 1-1/2" on older plants. Produces a cluster of white flowers in May/June.
- Pink Sundew (*Drosera capillaris*): Very common in coastal bogs from Texas to Virginia. Rosette to 1-1/2" diameter. Fast grower with pink flowers.
- Dewthreads Sundew (*Drosera filiformis-tracyi*): Common in bogs between Mississippi and Florida. A very fast growing and tall (18") plant that is especially good at catching gnats and other small bugs. Lavender flowers and abundant seed in the spring.
- Oblong-leaved Sundew (*Drosera intermedia*): Coastal bogs from Texas to Maine and Great Lakes region. Semi-erect plant to 8" in wet conditions within 2 years. Small white flowers produced in late summer.



- Pale Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia alata*): Found in isolated pine forests between Texas and Alabama. 30 to 36" tall when fully grown. Pretty Pale yellow flowers in early spring.
- Yellow Trumpet Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia flava*): Once common in Alabama to S. Virginia in savanna bogs. To 42" tall in shade, but usually 30" in sunny areas. One of the fastest growing Pitcher Plants from seed. Smelly Yellow flowers in early spring.
- White-Topped Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia leucophylla*): Possibly the most spectacular pitcher plant with its majestic and large pitchers. Greatly decreasing in numbers due to habitat destruction in Gulf Coast bogs between Mississippi and the Florida Panhandle. Often 36" tall. Produces spring and then a late summer flush of pitchers. Red flowers on a tall scape in early spring.
- Hooded Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia minor*): Unique looking 12" tall pitchers in late spring. Pretty yellow flowers in late spring. Native to coastal and inland pine forests between Central Florida and Lower N. Carolina.
- Parrot Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia psittacina*): Small rosetted plant typically less than 8" in diameter, larger in very wet habitats that maintains pitchers throughout the year. Coastal Louisiana to inland Georgia pine/seep bogs. Dark red flowers in late spring.
- Purple Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia purpurea-venosa*): We offer which is considered the southern form of this species which is found from Delaware south to Mississippi. It does not have a lid, but captures water to drown insects. Typically, up to 10" in diameter. One of two pitchers that keeps its pitcher's year round. Red to pink spring flowers.
- Sweet Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia rubra-wherryi*): One of the varieties in the rubra complex. This form is native to eastern Mississippi and lower Alabama. Pitchers vary in size from 10 to 16". Red flowers in late spring.

