

# SUNDEW

## CARE GUIDE

Sundews are found all over the world in many different habitats. This information covers those most readily available, but the keen collector can discover many other challenging and interesting Sundews to try.

### CAPE AND FORK-LEAVED SUNDEWS

**E.G. *D. CAPENSIS*, *D. ALICIAE*, *D. BINATA*, *D. SCORPIOIDES*.**

Position - They love full sun, and a sunny windowsill or conservatory is ideal.

Watering - Stand in 1-2cm water in spring/summer when in full growth. They need rainwater, soft water or distilled water. Try to avoid hard tap water, but remember that if you have run out of water, tap water is better than nothing occasionally. Information is available on our website under the Care Guides section about which water is and isn't suitable.

Over wintering - *D. capensis* and *aliciae* will tolerate a light frost if kept in an unheated conservatory. The plant will die back, and it is best to cut the whole lot off at ground level. This can be a way of keeping them nice and bushy for the next growth season. Keep just damp rather than too wet. They can be kept indoors over winter and may keep growing, therefore needing a little more water. Fork-leaved Sundews will lose all their leaves over winter and will suddenly go black. They have a relatively short dormancy and will send up new fronds in the spring. Just remove the black leaves and keep just damp and frost-free.

### HARDY SUNDEWS E.G. *D. ROTUNDIFOLIA*, *D. FILIFORMIS*

Position - Native Sundews (*D. rotundifolia*, *D. anglica*, *D. intermedia*) are best kept outside - you can create a mini-bog in a small bowl. They like the sun but do require a cold period in winter when they will lose their leaves and form a winter resting bud. Other hardy sundews such as *D. filiformis* and *D. hybrida* may prefer the protection of a cold greenhouse or cold frame. It is still important that they get a cold period in winter. They too will form a resting bud. Do not cut any down to ground level.



Watering - Use rainwater or soft water. Stand in 2cm in summer when in full growth.

Winter care - Keep just damp in winter if kept in a greenhouse. Ventilation is very important to prevent mould and rotting. Remove old leaves when black. Plants kept outside will have natural ventilation and will be watered by rainfall. It will not matter if they flood.

### TROPICAL SUNDEWS E.G. *D. PROLIFERA*, *D. ADELAE*

Position - The tropical sundews prefer a shadier, humid position and are ideal for a terrarium. They like it warm all year so are best kept indoors. To help create humidity, you can grow amongst moss or pebbles. Keep out of the full sun.

Watering - Use rainwater or soft water. Keep damp all year. Stand in a shallow tray and regularly water with 1cm water. Allow the water to be used before watering again.

Winter care - As these are tropical they will keep on growing over winter if given extra lighting. They will still be alright so long as they are kept warm and humid. They will not tolerate frost, so keep above 10°C and ideally even warmer. Remove any dead leaves. This applies all year round.

### ALL SUNDEWS

Pests and disease - The main problem to watch for is greenfly. They can cause a lot of damage in early spring with distorted and twisted leaves. Pruning the plant to the ground in autumn is a way of making sure they don't overwinter in the plant. Spray with a systemic insecticide such as 'The Ultimate Bug Killer'. The plants can take a couple of weeks to recover. Remove the old leaves when they have gone black, particularly in autumn/winter, to prevent botrytis (grey mould)

Potting on - Re-pot every 2-3 years into a peat/sand mix. Venus Flytrap compost can be used. An alternative if peat is hard to come by is Supersphag, either on its own or mixed with Perlite. Sundews grow easily from seed and may well appear in other pots - prick out into carnivorous plant compost when large enough.