

# VENUS FLYTRAP CARE GUIDE

**Venus Flytraps are not difficult to grow, but you need to be aware of a few things.**

## WHERE TO GROW THEM

Venus Flytraps love full sun and are ideal for a sunny windowsill or conservatory. They grow very well in a greenhouse, even one that isn't heated in winter (see winter care). However, full sun is very important, and a north-facing windowsill is not sunny enough for them to grow well.

## WATERING

The reason most people fail with Venus Flytraps is using the wrong water. 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. You can use it if you are lucky enough to have soft tap water. Information is available on our website under the Care Guides section about which water is and isn't suitable. Stand in 2-3 cm water almost all the time in summer. Do not let the plant dry out fully, especially in spring/summer.



## FEEDING

Feeding your plant is not usually necessary, but if you wish, you can feed it live prey. Woodlice are quite easy. Do not use dead insects and never use fertiliser. Old insects will stay in the trap and may help attract the next victim. Each trap only catches around three insects, and then it dies back, goes black, and a new trap will replace it.

## GROWING ON

They will send up a lot of flower buds but remove them, especially when the plant is small. Keep well watered in summer and remove old traps when black. Re-pot every two years - you may be able to divide it. Use 3:1 peat: sharp lime-free sand or Supersphag.

## WINTER CARE

In winter, it does not catch anything and goes dormant. The leaves will start to go yellow, then black. This is quite normal. Keep removing dead traps and leaves to prevent grey mould. Reduce the watering to prevent rotting and keep just damp, in a cool place - not in central heating. It really will withstand a frost and can be kept outside if sheltered from the wind.

## PEST CONTROL

Watch in early spring for signs of greenfly. They overwinter tucked down between the leaves and do much damage if not checked. The first sign may be tiny white specks and distorted growth. Spray, if necessary, with a systemic insecticide (The Ultimate Bug Killer is a readily available brand).