



GROWING CARNIVOROUS PLANTS

After your seeds germinate and the first true leaves (or traps) appear, you will be able to distinguish the different plants. They can be left in a pot for the first year – they grow quite slowly and will not get much bigger. If you have a Selection Kit, the Sundew will grow the fastest, at least in the first couple of years.

They all love full sun, so a sunny windowsill or conservatory are ideal. It is very important to use rainwater, filtered or distilled water. Try to avoid hard tap water, but remember that if you have run out water, tap water is better than nothing occasionally. Being bog plants, they can stand in a saucer of about 1-2 cm water over the spring and summer. In winter, carnivorous plants do not catch anything and are dormant. Reduce the watering to prevent rotting and keep just damp in a cool place – not in a central heating. In the second year, you can prick the seedlings out into carnivorous plant compost ([available via www.littleshopofhorrors.co.uk](http://www.littleshopofhorrors.co.uk)).

The Venus Flytrap forms a small rosette about 15-20 cm across. As the plant matures it divides to form a clump. Venus Flytraps will catch all sorts of prey. It is mainly flies, but they also catch wasps, spiders and daddy longlegs.

Trumpet Pitchers will grow tube like traps and are excellent at catching flies and wasps but take the longest to mature. Each year the traps die down and are bigger the following year. They grow from a rhizome and many are hardy.

Sundews are an attractive plant covered in sticky glue and great at catching small flies. They have very pretty pink or white flowers and make a lovely plant for a sunny windowsill.