

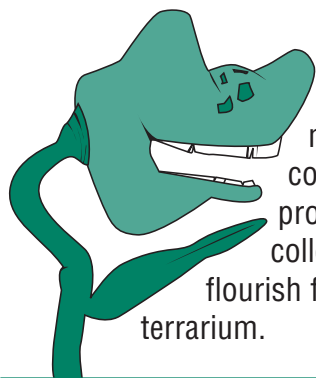
FLY TRAP FIENDS



*Planting, Care,
Variety, and
Garden Information*

FLY TRAP FIENDS™

Grow your own collection of feared and famous meat eating plants. This kit features the infamous Venus Trap. Watch these fascinating plants grow from harmless seeds into vicious bug-eating monsters!



Make your own authentic bog with the included peat planting mix, blue Swamp Rocks™, and companionable Bog Buddy™. With proper care, this rare and unusual collection of carnivorous plants will flourish for years in the specially designed terrarium.

Contents Included With Your Fly Trap Fiends™

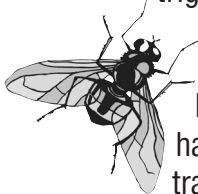
Planting terrarium
Bag of peat-based planting mixture
Color pack of Venus Fly Trap seeds (8 mg)
Bag of blue Swamp Rocks™
Colorful Bog Buddy™
Instructions and growing manual

How Do Venus Fly Trap Plants Work?



Like all plants, carnivorous plants use the sun to produce energy through photosynthesis. However, these plants grow in peat bogs where there are no additional minerals and nutrients in the soil. Over time, carnivorous plants thrived as they began to catch insects to get much-needed minerals and nutrients.

The plants attract insects to their traps by producing a sweet odor. When small insects touch tiny hairs of the plant, they trigger the trap to close, making escape impossible. The leaves of a Venus Fly Trap are covered with fine hairs. When an insect lands on the plant, the pressure on these hairs causes the jaw-like foliage to snap closed, trapping the insect inside.



The trap of the plant closes in two phases: immediate rough closure and tightening/sealing closure. The first is the one we see. The edges of the trap remain slightly open to let very small insects escape—they have too little food value to make up for the energy invested to digest them. If the insect is large enough to be trapped, its movements trigger the tightening/sealing phase, where the trap presses together to form a watertight seal around the insect. If the plant is fed a dead insect, it is necessary to gently massage the trap several times to simulate escape and trigger the sealing phase. Otherwise the trap will just reopen, or worse, begin to rot as the insect inside putrefies.

How to Grow Your Venus Fly Traps From Seed

- Massage the bag of planting mixture in order to remove any clumps that may have formed during shipping.
- Empty the bag's contents carefully into the base of the terrarium. Remove and dispose of any large clumps that remain, leaving only fine peat moss.
- Add 1 cup of distilled or rain water and mix with soil.
- Press and smooth soil gently so there are no clumps on the surface of the soil.
- Spread Swamp Rocks™ to create streams throughout your carnivorous bog.
- Place you Bog Buddy™ in the terrarium.
- ***The seeds are extremely small. Use great care when handling them.*** Fold a piece of paper once and carefully empty the packet's contents onto the paper. Tap the pack gently to release all the seeds of the envelope and collect them in the crease of the paper.
- Scatter the seeds directly onto the surface of the soil.
- ***Place terrarium in the refrigerator and leave for 8 weeks before continuing the planting procedure. This is know as stratification.***
- Sprinkle 1/2 cup of water on top of the seeds.
- Place the lid on your terrarium.
- Place in a warm, bright area that is not in direct sunlight; an eastern or southern exposure is best. A western exposure will provide too much light and a northern exposure will not provide enough warmth and light.
- Germination will take 3 to 6 weeks after you remove the terrarium from the refrigerator.

Caring For Your Carnivorous Plants

- It is best to water your carnivorous plants with rainwater or distilled water. If you must use tap water, leave it in an open container for a few days to allow the disinfecting agent to escape.
- Your carnivorous plants like to be kept wet. The included terrarium is the perfect environment for them.
- Your plants will flourish in the provided terrarium with or without food. If you do not feed them flies, fertilize them in the spring when new growth begins to appear.
- It is good for the plants to have the lid removed for a day every month or two to prevent the growth of fungus. Also, if your terrarium is left in the heat and sun for any period of time, remove the lid to prevent the buildup of excessively high temperatures.
- The plants like to be kept cooler in the winter, 45 to 60 degrees, and warmer in the summer, 75 to 80 degrees.
- If you do not plan to use the seeds for a while, store them in the refrigerator, not the freezer.
- 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 or water the surface of 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.

- Carnivorous plants are perennials and need a dormant period at least once a year. The plant will begin to die back naturally. This is normal. Simply remove the greenhouse top, remove dead foliage, and place in a refrigerator for two months. You can also place them in an unheated garage for two months if you live in an area with a cold winter. However, the plants cannot be allowed to freeze.
- It is okay to let your pitcher plants dry out more during this dormant period. Water every three weeks or so during the dormant period.
- After two months, water the plants, replace the lid, and place in a window with a southern or eastern exposure.
- If you choose to use artificial lighting for your carnivorous plants, use a fluorescent or compact fluorescent bulb in the color range of 5000 to 6000 Kelvin. A shop light reflector, found at most hardware stores, is also very beneficial to increase the light for the plants. The plants color will be brought out by brighter lights.
- If you decide to transplant your carnivorous plants, it is important to use the correct soil. The planting mixture must not contain anything like compost or reed-sedge peat and must be primarily sphagnum peat moss. Following are two good recipes that you can make yourself:
 - *pure sphagnum peat moss*
 - *four parts sphagnum peat moss, two parts fine Perlite, one part horticultural sand*
- **Patience is very important when growing carnivorous plants from seed. They may sprout in as early as a couple of weeks, but some may take months.**

Fly Trap Fiends™ included in the Deluxe Mixture

Venus Fly Trap: (*Dionaea muscipula*)

The Venus Fly Trap germinates easily. Venus Fly Traps are unique in the plant world in that they are monotypic, meaning they consist of only one species. Usually the plants will germinate in three weeks to several months. Fly Traps evolved in bogs in North and South Carolina within a small area 100 miles in radius. Wild Venus Fly Traps are an endangered species because of collectors; Fly Traps purchased in stores have all been grown in nurseries.

In spring the plants produce a 12-inch-tall flower stalk with white flowers and then set seed. They can also reproduce by the rhizome growing and splitting. One reference stated that Venus Fly Traps have a maximum of seven leaves. If a plant has more, this may indicate that the rhizome has split and the plant is actually two or more plants.

Movies featuring the Venus Fly Trap:

Saw II
Little Shop of Horrors
Werewolf of London
The Double Garden
Creepshow 2
Voodoo Island

Feeding Your Fly Trap Fiend

The best insects to feed the plant are those with soft bodies that are 1/3 to 1/2 the size of the traps. The hard shells of beetles and similar insects make them difficult to digest. One reference states that after starving a plant for one year, it was then fed an insect in each trap. The result was that all the traps died and it set the plant back two months. The likely cause was that the stress of trying to produce so much digestive fluid at one time weakened the plant,

suggesting that the plants can be overfed. On the other hand the plant may have been weakened by the year of non-feeding. Most references state that three to four insects per month is enough. Several sources warn against trying to feed hamburger to a Fly Trap; the fat content could injure the plant. Overfeeding may lead to reduced trap size and long, weak growth.

A Fly Trap can take 8 to 20 days to digest an insect.

All references recommend removing blackened traps and leaves as soon as they form. This rotting away of used traps and leaves is normal. They also recommend avoiding triggering the traps to close as entertainment. Repeatedly doing so weakens the plant.

Credits:

Color photos used on box, instructions, and seed pack courtesy of Carl Mazur.

Customer Service:

Visit our web site: www.carnivorouscreations.com for more information about this product.

Email info@dunecraft.com, or call 1-800-306-4168 with questions.

Visit our web site www.dunecraft.com to:

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