

Midtown Carnivores

<http://www.midtowncarnivores.com>

Plant Care Sheet

Sarracenia

North American Pitcher Plants

GENERAL CARE: Place your plant's pot into a bowl or container, and add water to the container until the water is ~¼ of the way up the side of the pot. Place the pot and its bowl outdoors in an area of bright sunlight, away from roof overhangs or structures that block sunlight at different times of day. After the water has evaporated, add water again to the same level and proceed. See WHAT TO EXPECT below for winter care information.



WATER: *Sarracenia* plants require water with under 50 parts per million (ppm) of total dissolved solids (TDS). Steam-distilled water (available at pharmacies & groceries), reverse-osmosis water and collected rainwater are three recommended types. If using tap- or garden hose water, check its TDS level with a handheld meter to ensure that it is <50 ppm. NEVER use "nursery water," "spring water" or "mineral water" as these have added ions that will severely and irreparably harm your plants over time. (TDS meters are available on our online store under SEEDS AND SUPPLIES: OTHER.)

LIGHT: Growing outdoors is an easy way of providing the right type of light for your plants. Sunlight is optimal, but placement is also important. Choose an open location where your plants can receive gradually increasing amounts of sunlight as the day progresses.

MEDIA: *Sarracenia* requires acidic, nutrient-poor growing media (soil), with good drainage to prevent root rot. A mix of sphagnum peat moss and perlite (1:1 ratio) is recommended. Pure long-fiber sphagnum moss may also be used. **NEVER use fertilizers**, Miracle-Gro products (including their peat moss and perlite) or gardening/potting soil, as these contain minerals that WILL kill your plants in a matter of days.

WHAT TO EXPECT: Plants will grow new trap leaves as they exit dormancy in early Spring. New pitcher leaves will emerge from the center of the plant. Between spring and summer, in mature plants, you may see a stalked disc emerge from the center of the plant that looks nothing like a trap leaf. That is a flower stalk. Enjoy it, the flower is beautiful and can be self-fertilized or cross-fertilized to obtain seed. Depending on the time of year and growing conditions, some species will also form long, wide, non-pitcher leaves called "phyllodia." When older leaves will brown and die off, you can cut them off to prevent fungus. In autumn, the plant will slow its growth of new leaves and eventually stop before winter begins. This winter period of dormancy is **required** for long-term plant survival. The dormant plant will look harried, but this is normal. Shelter the plant in a cool, dark location for the winter, **watering only to keep media damp**, and bring the plant back out in mid-April to mid-May.

For any questions, please contact us at any time:



© 2012 – Midtown Carnivores, www.midtowncarnivores.com

We also recommend the following from our SEEDS AND SUPPLIES section of our online store:

CARNIVOROUS PLANT MIX #1

TDS METER

MUSLIN DRAWSTRING BAGS