

<http://www.midtowncarnivores.com>



GENERAL CARE: Place your plant's pot into a deep bowl or container, and add water to the container until the water level is all the way up the side of the pot. Place the pot and its bowl on a sunny windowsill in an area of bright sunlight, away from roof overhangs or structures that block sunlight at different times of day. (Or, place the pot indoors under an artificial light source.) After the water has evaporated and the water level is about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the height of the pot, add water again up to the height of the pot and proceed. (Terrestrial *utricularia* appreciate periodic flooding.)

WATER: Terrestrial *Utricularia* require water with under 100 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 <100 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 under [SEEDS AND SUPPLIES: OTHER.](#))

LIGHT: Growing on a sunny windowsill is an easy way of providing the right type and duration 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. (For a more controlled environment, fluorescent lighting can be used as an indoor alternative.) For several plants, a fluorescent ballast may be used, but for fewer plants, a desk lamp with a compact fluorescent tube (CFT) bulb should be fine. I recommend a "Daylight" spectrum bulb, rather than a "bright white" or "soft white." Terrestrial *Utricularia* are generally used to a medium amount of light, so at least 8 hours of light per day is sufficient, though more seems to be well tolerated as well. We advise using an outlet timer. Keep the plant 6"-12" away from the bulb, so that it receives enough light to thrive, but not so much heat that the leaves dry out.

MEDIA: Terrestrial *Utricularia* requires acidic, nutrient-poor growing media (soil), with good drainage to prevent root rot. A mix of sphagnum peat moss and horticultural sand (1:1 ratio) is recommended. A 1:1 mixture of peat and perlite 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: Most of your terrestrial *Utricularia's* growth will occur below the soil line, as the rhizoids (roughly analogous to stems or roots) form tiny, barely visible, carnivorous bladders underneath the soil to catch microscopic organisms in the flooded soil. As the plant continues to branch underground, the rhizoids that grow toward the soil's surface will produce photosynthetic leaves above the soil line. You may even see rhizoids growing up out of the soil and extending its growth back into the soil some distance away from where it emerged. Different species of *Utricularia* flower at various times under various conditions. When they do, a vertical flower stalk may emerge and produce tiny, orchid-like flowers. Enjoy them!



We also recommend the following from the [SEEDS AND SUPPLIES](#) section of our online store:

[TDS METER](#)
[CARNIVOROUS PLANT MIX #4](#)