



How to Grow Tropical Sundews

Tropical sundews come in a variety of shapes and sizes. These plants are very adept at capturing small flying insects, such as flies, gnats, and mosquitoes. Sundews are easy to grow if you know their few cultural requirements. They grow in soil so poor that ordinary garden soil, soil from the yard, even special potting soil produced to encourage other plants to grow their best, will all kill Venus Flytraps.

Fertilizer will also kill sundews. Although experienced growers have learned a few ways to lightly fertilize a sundew without damaging it, new growers should never use fertilizer, nor a soil with any kind of added plant food or natural fertility.

Water from your kitchen tap or garden faucet will almost certainly kill a sundew. In nature, they are used to lots of rain, which contains almost nothing but pure water. Water from a kitchen or garden spigot is not nearly as pure as rainwater; although it may look clear, it usually contains dissolved minerals, and these will damage or kill sundews.

Water— Use only pure distilled water or reverse osmosis water with nothing added, or collected rain water; never use tap water or garden water. Sundews love soil that is moist but not wet all the time.

Soil— Use only a specially prepared soil that has no nutritive value; never use garden soil, potting soil, soil from the yard or any kind of soil prepared for other kinds of plants. Peat moss packaged without fertilizer works well.

No fertilizer— Do not use any kind of fertilizer with sundews; it will damage or possibly kill them.

Sunlight & dormancy— In addition to needing only pure water and nutrient poor soil, Sundews love lots of sunlight (or strong artificial light). Most can withstand full sunlight all day, but will need at least a few hours of direct sunlight every day. Artificial light for plants will also provide them with enough illumination.