



# How to Grow a Venus Flytrap

Venus Flytraps are easy to grow if you know their few, but strict, requirements. People often kill their first Venus Flytrap or two, despite their best intentions, because they treat them like other plants. But the Venus Flytrap is a special plant with a very special natural habitat and some special needs. In nature, Venus Flytraps grow in soil that has almost no nutrition. They expect 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 Venus Flytraps. Although experienced growers have learned a few ways to lightly fertilize a Venus Flytrap without damaging it, new growers should never use fertilizer, nor soil with any kind of added plant food or natural fertility.

Water from your kitchen tap or garden faucet will almost certainly kill a Venus Flytrap. 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 Venus Flytraps.

**Water**— Use only pure distilled water or reverse osmosis water with nothing added, or collected rain water; never use tap water or garden water. Venus Flytraps 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 Venus Flytraps; it will damage or possibly kill them.

**Sunlight & dormancy**— In addition to needing only pure water and nutrient poor soil, Venus Flytraps love lots of sunlight (or strong artificial light), and need a yearly rest period (a winter dormancy) during which they die back, look terrible for a while, grow only very little and very slowly, and should not be watered nearly as frequently as during the warm and sunny growing season, or they might rot from fungal or bacterial infection, if kept too wet during dormancy.