

Dionaea muscipula

Venus Flytrap

Even though there is only one species, there is wide variation among plants. The typical plant is green, with a reddish-orange color on the inside of the mature trap. There is a 'red-mouth' variety that can range from bright red just inside the trap to a dark burgundy that colors even the teeth on the edge of the trap. There is also a 'big-mouth' variety that grows huge traps, and other varieties have 'saw-teeth' instead of hairs around the edge of the trap.

Tip: Traps have 'trigger hairs' inside; an unwary insect that is attracted to the plant's nectar will brush against the trigger hairs, causing the trap to snap shut. It literally squeezes the body fluids out of the insect and digests it, opening back up in about 4 days with just a carcass left! Each trap only closes about 4 times, and then turns black, and new growth then replaces it. **This is the reason you should not stick your finger in the trap.** If you want to show your friends how the traps close, catch a fly, moth, cricket, or other small insect and feed your plant!

Light: During the growing season, grow your flytrap outside in full sun. Provide 6 or more hours of direct sunlight for vigorous growth.



Water: Venus flytraps are bog plants, growing in nutrient-deficient acidic soils like peat moss or long-fibered sphagnum moss. The pot should be set in a bowl or dish of water in a sunny location. The plants need acidic water; rainwater is perfect, or you can use distilled water and add a little vinegar to make it acidic. Do not use tap water.

Fertilizer: It is not necessary because carnivorous plants have adapted to capturing insects on their own, and insects will naturally be attracted to your plant.