

Carnivorous plants are certainly some of the coolest plants around as carnivory is so un-plant-like and fascinating to watch.

Pitcher plants are the largest group of carnivorous plants and *Sarracenia* is one of the largest pitcher plant genera. They are very exotic almost alien-looking plants that have unusual leaf shapes and incredible colors. If you are a fan of growing colorful, unusual, meat eating plants than *Sarracenias* are for you. Whether its their unique foliage, fabulous flowers, or ability to rid the world of unwanted insects pests, *Sarracenias* are a wonderful group of plants to have.



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*Sarracenia sp.*

# AMERICAN PITCHER PLANT



## Light

It is common for several of the traps to "burn" and die back when you first put it into the sun, it is just getting used to the full sun exposer and it will quickly grow new traps. They will thrive in full sun, meaning at least 6 hours of direct light. When grown indoors they need a bright windowsill or grow lights.

Full Sun

## Watering

Always keep them sitting in a saucer with a few inches of distilled or purified water. Never let them dry out. ALWAYS use distilled, reverse osmosis, or rain water only.

## Feeding

Do NOT fertilize this plant.

## Soil

Use a mix of four parts fertilizer free peat moss to one part perlite.

## Planting & Care

These are warm-temperature plants meaning they need warm summers and chilly winters. If you live in an area with cold winters (where night time temps drop below 20) you have to provide them with a winter dormancy.

Dormancy is triggered by a combination of exposure to shorter photo periods and cooler temps in the 50-60's F. While you can skip a dormancy period once or twice, long term your plant will begin to do poorly and will eventually die if you skip this crucial period.

Remove the plants from their pots, gently clean the roots, wrap them in a bit of damp long-fibered New Zealand sphagnum moss, place plants in a seal-able bag and put the bag into the refrigerator. Leave them in the refrigerator from October to February, periodically checking on them to make sure they are will a bit moist and are not growing any fungus. Pot them back up in February.

[californiacarnivores.com](http://californiacarnivores.com)

## Size

From 6"-36" depending on variety.

## Flower

Blooms rival showy orchids in their beauty. They bloom one time a year, starting in late winter/early spring. Often it is the first sign of the plant waking up.



## Temperature

20-90°F

## Humidity

Moderate-High

## Care

Average

If you see black mold on your pitcher plant, don't panic! This harmless mold grows on the pitcher nectar, and is not harmful to your plant.