

Midtown Carnivores

Plant Care Sheet

Drosera – Tropical Sundews

<http://www.midtowncarnivores.com>

GENERAL CARE: Place your plant's pot into a bowl or container, and add water to the container until the water is ~¼ of the way up the side of the pot. Place the pot and its bowl outdoors 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 on a sunny south- or west-facing windowsill, or under an artificial light source.) After the water has evaporated, add water again to the same level and proceed.



WATER: *Drosera* plants require water with under 50 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 <50 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 on our online store under [SEEDS AND SUPPLIES: OTHER.](#))

LIGHT: Growing outdoors is an easy way of providing the right type 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." Plants should receive at least 14 hours of light per day. 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: *Drosera* requires acidic, nutrient-poor growing media (soil), with good drainage to prevent root rot. A mix of sphagnum peat moss and perlite (1:1 ratio) is recommended. Pure long-fiber sphagnum moss 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: Plants will grow new leaves year-round. New leaves will grow from the plant's center. When older leaves will brown and die off, you can cut them off to prevent fungus. If growing your plant outdoors, bring the plant indoors to a sunny windowsill or under artificial light as temperatures cool for the winter. Bring the plant back outdoors in mid-April to mid-May. (Or, **if using artificial light:** Plants will continually produce new leaves, and can keep growing in these conditions indefinitely.) In mid-Spring, a vertical flower stalk may uncurl from the plant that looks nothing like a leaf. Many species of *Drosera* will self-fertilize their own flowers. After the flower and stalk dry out, the seeds can be collected.

For any questions, please contact us at any time:



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

[**CARNIVOROUS PLANT MIX #1**](#)

[**TDS METER**](#)