

<http://www.midtowncarnivores.com>

**GENERAL CARE:** Find a dish for your plant pot that will allow it to drain, and place the pot on top. Add water to the top of the pot until the soil is wet, but do not add so much that the pot sits in a standing pool of water. Place the pot and its dish on a sunny, south- or west-facing windowsill. Alternatively, place the pot indoors under an artificial light source. After the soil has mostly dried, water the pot again



**WATER:** For growing *Nepenthes*, we recommend using steam-distilled water (available at pharmacies & grocery stores), reverse-osmosis water, collected rainwater and/or any water that measures less than 50 parts per million (ppm) of total dissolved solids (TDS). However, *Nepenthes* are more tolerant of higher-TDS water than many other carnivorous plant types. If you use tap water or garden hose water that has more than 50ppm of TDS, you should completely rinse through your plant pot's soil several times with distilled water at least once per month.

**LIGHT:** Growing on a sunny windowsill is an easy way of providing the right type of light for your plants. Sunlight is optimal, but placement is also important. Avoid placing your plant is near a wall/overhang that blocks light early in the day and gets blasted with sudden, intense light when the sun moves forward as it may cause leaf burn. Instead, choose a south- or west-facing windowsill, away from overhead obstacles, where your plants can receive consistent 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:** *Nepenthes* requires acidic, nutrient-poor growing media (soil), with good drainage to prevent root rot. A mix of sphagnum peat moss, perlite and orchid bark (1:1:1 ratio) is recommended. A mix of long-fiber sphagnum moss and orchid bark (1:1) may also be used for greater water retention. **NEVER use** 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.

**FERTILIZER:** In lieu of feeding *Nepenthes*, an extremely dilute fertilizer solution may be used. A urea-free, low-phosphorus fertilizer is advocated, at about ½ teaspoon per gallon of water, and even then sparingly applied to the soil, or poured directly into the pitchers in very small volumes. Remember: excessive fertilization will kill your plant.

**WHAT TO EXPECT:** Plants will grow new leaves through the warm, sunny months. New leaves will unfurl from the growing stem. Older leaves will turn brown and die off. If your growing conditions are favorable, the tendril at the end of a leaf will elongate, and the tip will grow, inflate and open as a functional pitcher. In late autumn, leaf production will slow for the winter. This is normal. Growth will resume as the daylight period increases once again in the spring. (Or, **if using artificial light:** Plants will produce continually produce new leaves, and can keep growing in these conditions indefinitely, as long as the light source is appropriately large for your growing plant; uneven lighting is never a good thing.)

For any questions, please contact us at any time:



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

**CARNIVOROUS PLANT MIX #2 AND #3**

**NEPENTHES FERTILIZER**