

<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. Water the pot again after the soil has dried.



WATER: *Pinguicula* are tolerant of higher-TDS water than many other carnivorous plant types. Tap water or garden hose water should suffice, but to be safe, distilled water (available at pharmacies & grocery stores), reverse osmosis water or collected rain water is recommended.

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: *Pinguicula* requires 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. A mix of sphagnum peat moss, perlite and vermiculite (1:1:1 ratio), or a mixture of sphagnum peat moss and horticultural sand (1:1) 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 through the warm, sunny months. New leaves will emerge from the center of the plant. As the season progresses, older leaves will turn brown and die off. In autumn, the plant may slow its growth of new leaves. Some species will form a cluster of small leaves; this cluster is called a “resting bud.” If a bud is formed, the plant has gone dormant for the rest of the season. If this occurs, refrain from fully watering, and keep the soil moist but not wet, to avoid root rot. (Or, **if using artificial light:** Plants will produce continually produce new leaves, and can keep growing in these conditions indefinitely.) During the season, you may see a stalk begin emerging from the plant that looks nothing like a leaf. That is a flower stalk. Enjoy it.

For any questions, please contact us at any time:



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CARNIVOROUS PLANT MIX #1 AND #4