

Meat Eating Experiment Lab

Item #: SSCA-847

Planting and Care Instructions



Contents:

3 Seed Square Terrariums
3 Compressed Germination
Disks
3 Meat Eating Plant Stakes
3 Color Seed Packets, 1 each
Fly Trap, Pitcher Plant, Sundew
Plant.
Instructions

Meat Eating Experiment Lab

Grow your own collection of feared and famous meat-eating plants! This deluxe edition has seeds from over six kinds of carnivorous plants including Venus Fly Trap, Sundew Plant, and several varieties of Pitcher Plants. Watch these fascinating plants grow into bug-eating monsters! This rare and unusual collection of carnivorous plants will flourish for years in the specially designed terrariums with proper care.

They can be stacked on top of each other while sprouting. Once the plants grow the tops can be removed, and used as pedestals for the planters!

Planting Instructions

You will have to stratify your pitcher plant seeds prior to planting. Put the seeds in the small plastic bag with the tiny germination mixture disk and add 1 teaspoon of DISTILLED WATER. Seal bag and massage contents together. Place in refrigerator for 6-8 weeks. After this, they are ready to be planted.

You will plant all three varieties in their Seed Squares in the same basic way. Plant one kind of plant in each terrarium or plant some of each in them!

Place compressed germination disk inside the colored base of the terrarium and slowly add 1 cup of **DISTILLED WATER ONLY**. The germination disk will absorb the water and expand into your growing medium.

Use a plastic spoon to aerate and mix the soil up. Add up to another ¼ cup of distilled water if necessary to create moist soil.

Gently push down the growing medium and smooth out. The growing medium should be well moistened but there should not be any pockets of standing water.

Spread your seeds on the surface of the soil. Gently push the Flytrap Seeds and stratified Pitcher Plant Seeds into the soil about 1/8" and cover with the medium. The tiny Sundew Seeds should be placed on the top of the soil. Plant them 1/2 inch apart.

Put your Carnivorous Biosphere near a window in bright indirect light where it will not be easily knocked over.

Seeds also like heat when germinating, so be sure that the planter is not too cool. 72-80 degrees is the ideal temperature for sprouting.

You can tell how dry the soil is by the weight of the planter. Add DISTILLED water as required to keep the soil moist on a weekly basis. If it is drying out too fast, you may want to put some clear tape over the holes on the top.

Your Sundew will germinate in 1-4 weeks, your Flytraps will sprout in 1-3 months, and your Pitcher Plants will germinate in 1-2 months.

Leave the top on until the plants have reached the top, or prune plant as needed and leave the top on. Plants are very small and slow growing.

PLEASE TURN SHEET OVER FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Care and Growing Instructions

Use Only Distilled water or collected rainwater. Do not use bottled, tap, spring, well, or salt water.

Carnivorous plants like to be kept moist and thrive in bright indirect light.

Never fertilize or feed raw meat.

You can feed them small bits of cooked meat.

These are perennials and need a cold period. When the leaves start dying down, remove the dead ones and place the entire terrarium in the refrigerator for six weeks. Let it dry out more during this period. Bring out and saturate with distilled water and they will come back, bigger than the prior year!

Promptly trim off and remove any dead foliage.

Do not put your terrarium outside in full sun as the terrarium will dry out too quickly.

If you see any mold forming, take the top for a day or two and manually remove the mold.

You can also water with a 1:50 mix of hydrogen peroxide and water to eliminate the mold. This is about one capful to 7 ounces of water.

Removing the top will also prevent mold from forming, but only do this after germination.

Be sure to check water on a weekly basis with the top on.

If you wish to water less, use clear tape to cover the side vents of the top of the biosphere.

If you decide to remove the dome top, you will need to check the moisture every few days as the planter will dry out much more quickly.

Meat-Eating Plants

Fly Traps

The famous Venus Fly Trap, a native of coastal North and South Carolina, forms a hinged trap that typically has three little triggers on the inside of each half. When an insect touches one of the triggers, the plant gets ready to spring into action. When the same or another one is touched, the trap quickly slams shut. Digestive enzymes secreted by glands within the trap decompose the insect's body. The trap will open again in a week or two to capture another meal.

Sundews

Sundews produce leaves with tentacles that produce a very sticky glue-like substance. They glisten in sunlight and are called "The Jewels of the Plant World." Insects are attracted to the tentacles and quickly become stuck. Adjoining tentacles bend and attach to the body of the unlucky bug. Digestive enzymes eventually absorb the nutrients from the insect, thus nourishing the plant.

Pitcher Plants

Pitcher plants form tube traps that produce a sweet smell and sap on the slippery rim of the trap to attract insects. Insects are enticed to stroll around the rim and if they are not careful, will fall into the narrow tube or vessel. The inside surface of the tube is very waxy, and the victim is usually unable to crawl back up to freedom. The top closes and the pitcher fills up with digestive juices to eat the insect.

Did You Know?

There are over 650 species of meat-eating plants that are native to all Continents except Antarctica.

North America was once home to vast numbers of carnivorous plants in what are sometimes called "wetland habitats."

American species are some of the most spectacular in form and color of all meat-eating plants!

Carnivorous Plants live in humid and poor nutrient habitats and have developed their carnivorous habit to supplement their diet with mineral loaded insects.

All Carnivorous Plants have highly modified leaves that form traps that lure and then capture prey.

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