



Promoting Native Plants since 2003 Certified Women Owned Business Enterprise

Carnivorous Bog Plants and Their Companions

Peat Bogs in Nature

Certain plants have adapted to live in wet, acidic, spongy peat bogs with low nutrient availability. Peat bogs are a type of natural wetland where there is an accumulation of peat in low-lying, acidic wetlands. The ground is spongy, often floating on completely saturated peat. The peat is a dead plant material that does not decompose over time due to acidic conditions, often made up of centuries of dead layers of sphagnum moss. The acidic conditions and lack of decomposition leave these wetlands nutrient deprived, so most plants cannot thrive here. Because of this, many unique carnivorous plants have evolved in bogs as insect prey provides nutrients that the peat does not.

Containers and Media:

You can grow these plants in containers or an artificial bog. The growing media in either case is a specific mix of sand (or perlite) and peat (or sphagnum). Just about any kind of container can be used, but larger containers dry out slowly than smaller ones and require less frequent repotting. You can also build an artificial bog in your garden using a plastic baby pool, pond form, or liner (see our blog on our website for a step to step guide on building a low cost bog!)

Get creative! Mix and match these plants together in containers to create amazing and beautiful planters to enjoy all season long!

Watering:

Bog plants need to be kept moist at all times. You can keep their containers in shallow trays of standing water. Keep container bogs watered regularly. When watering your bog garden, do not use hose or faucet water—it contains too many excess nutrients, such as salts and metals. You should use only pure water such as distilled water, rain water, or waste water from your dehumidifier if you have one!

Fertilizer:

It is generally recommended not to fertilize most bog species, especially the carnivorous plants because they are easily hurt by them.

Overwintering Your Bog Garden:

If you grow your bog plants in containers, it is recommended to either push these containers up against your house and insulate around them with leaves or mulch or bury the pots up to the rims in your garden soil and cover with straw or other dry vegetation. You can also bring them into unheated garages or sheds, just be sure they don't dry out. It is okay if they get snow on them outdoors, in fact it is a great insulator!

If you build an artificial bog (in-ground) all you need to do is cover the bog with a layer of pine needles, straw, or other dry vegetation for the winter. About 6 inches deep will do!

Our inventory changes often, however the following are bog plants we typically have in stock. Check our website for our current availability.

CARNIVOROUS BOG PLANTS

- Dionaea muscipula* - Venus Flytrap
- Drosera filiformis* var *filiformis* - Thread-leaf Sundew
- Drosera intermedia* - Spatulate-leaf Sundew
- Sarracenia flava* - Yellow Pitcher Plant
- Sarracenia leucophylla* - White-topped Pitcher Plant
- Sarracenia purpurea* var *purpurea* - Northern Purple Pitcher Plant
- Sarracenia rubra* - Red Pitcher Plant
- Sarracenia* × *Daina's Delight'* - Daina's Delight' Pitcher Plant
'Green Monster' hybrid Pitcher Plant; a rare, albino, naturally occurring hybrid between *S. leucophylla* and *S. minor*
- Sarracenia* × *'Green Monster'* - 'Maroon' hybrid Pitcher Plant; naturally occurring hybrid of *S. purpurea* and *S. minor*
- Sarracenia* × *chelsonii* *'Maroon'* - Rehder's Pitcher Plant; naturally occurring hybrid of *S. rubra* and *S. minor*
- Sarracenia* × *rehderi* - Steven's Pitcher Plant; Naturally occurring hybrid of *S. rubra* and *S. minor*
- Sarracenia* × *stevensii* -

COMPANION BOG PLANTS

- Andromeda polifolia* var. *glaucophylla* - Bog Rosemary; not related to edible Rosemary
- Calapogon tuberosus* - Grass Pink Orchid
- Equisetum scirpoides* - Dwarf Scouring Rush/ Dwarf Horsetail; aggressive grower
- Lysimachia terrestris* - Swamp Candles
- Pogonia ophioglossoides* - Rose Pogonia Orchid
- Sabatia kennedyana* - Plymouth Rose-Gentian
- Spiranthes odorata* - Fragrant Ladies Tress Orchid
- Vaccinium macrocarpon* - American Cranberry (edible)
- Xyris caroliniana* - Carolina Yellow-eyed Grass