

Butterworts! The Extended Guide

Whether you've purchased a plant from us or simply want to learn, all are welcome!



Be aware that it might take a couple of weeks for a plant to adapt to the new growing conditions you give it, especially if they are vastly different from the conditions it came from! It's normal to see a colour shift or a dieback of leaves as a result of this change. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us anytime!

Origin: Butterworts are found on almost every continent, but mostly in the warmer climates of South America and Mexico. You can often find them in sandy, wet soils and even anchored to rocks! This makes them a great terrarium plant, as they can be placed in spots where other plants usually cannot be placed within an enclosure.

Sun: We always recommend grow lights for our carnivorous species to help them thrive, as natural light from a window is often unreliable. If you cannot use a grow light, a sunny window would be best. Tropical Pinguicula (Butterworts) do well in direct and indirect sunlight; if you have purchased a particular species that has a colour other than green (Red, brown, purple, etc.), direct sunlight can help make that colour as vibrant as possible. If they aren't getting enough sun, you'll see their newer leaves revert to green. However, make sure not to put the light too close, as it can also burn the leaves. The more sunlight it has, the more the plant should be watered.

Humidity: They prefer high humidity, with a minimum of 50-70%, and certain species can tolerate higher levels. If you see leaf rot starting to occur, your humidity is too high. If your plant does not have the goo on its leaves, the humidity is not high enough. You can raise humidity by placing them on a tray of pebbles, covering them with a glass or plastic cover that lets light through, and misting them multiple times a day.

Temperature: Pings have a relatively wide temperature range, living from 15 to 30 degrees Celsius, but for best growth, try keeping them at least at 20 degrees and above. If the temperature drops, a butterwort can fall into dormancy, resulting in a succulent-like phase where they are unable to take food until the temperature rises again.

Watering: DO NOT USE TAP WATER. Tap water has a high mineral content, which these guys are not designed to handle. Eventually, those minerals will build up in the roots and kill the plants! Options are distilled water, reverse osmosis and rainwater. Pings like it constantly moist but not waterlogged.

Soil: DO NOT USE POTTING SOIL. Potting soil contains fertilizers and minerals that can kill carnivorous plants. The most common media used for Pings is a mix of peat moss, perlite, rocks (limestone in particular) and sand. You can also use sphagnum moss mixed with perlite or on its own, depending on the species and its ability to handle acidity.

Feeding: DO NOT FEED HUMAN FOOD! We recommend fruit flies, *Drosophila Melanogaster*, as live, fresh bugs are always best and using bugs that are too big can cause them to escape from the butterwort's gooey leaves. However, if you don't like bugs, you can use freeze-dried or thawed bloodworms, and even flaked fish food; we recommend grinding it up and only adding a little sprinkle to the leaves to avoid mould and fungus growth.

