

## Venus Flytrap! The Extended Guide



Whether you have purchased a fly trap from us or you just want to learn, all are welcome here!

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:** Venus flytraps are native to North and South Carolina in the United States. They are often found and thrive in marshes and wetlands. Venus flytraps have a small range, and as a result of illegal poaching, they are now a threatened species, making them vulnerable to extinction.

**Sun:** These guys can handle light from a very sunny window. However, they thrive in bright, direct light for a good 12 hours a day. We recommend indoor grow lights for them, as natural light tends to be unreliable. If a Venus flytrap does not get enough light, you may notice its new leaves start to grow more upward and longer. This is called 'reaching,' and plants do this to get closer to their required light source.

**Humidity:** Venus Flytraps enjoy high humidity, with a minimum of 50%, but the higher, the better. You can raise humidity by placing them on a tray of pebbles, covering them with a glass or plastic cover that allows light to shine through or misting them multiple times a day. These guys are a good choice for tropical terrariums, especially one designed for carnivorous-specific foliage.

**Temperature:** These guys love it warm. Try to keep your temperature between 20 and 30 degrees Celsius. They don't handle colder temperatures very well unless in dormancy. If it gets too cold, dormancy may be triggered, resulting in leaf die-off and stunted growth until warmth returns. Make sure that during the winter months, a fly trap is not kept by a window, as our window sills get colder during this time.

**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. VFT's like it constantly moist, but not waterlogged. Your soil should be wet enough to clump in your hand, but not so wet that it drips when squeezed.

**Soil:** DO NOT USE POTTING SOIL. Potting soil contains fertilizers and minerals that can kill carnivorous plants. The most common media used for Venus flytraps is a mix of peat moss and perlite, but others like to add sand for aeration.

**Feeding:** DO NOT FEED HUMAN FOOD! We recommend using bugs half the size of the trap you intend to feed, and feeding only one or two traps at a time. Good options are mealworms, crickets and fruit flies, but if you don't like bugs, you can use freeze-dried or thawed bloodworms.

These guys do not require constant feeding to survive; even a single bug per month is good enough. Whether a trap can take food will depend on its size, age and plant health. Older or unhealthy traps will not be able to take food; traps have only a certain number of openings and closings before they die, usually 3-5.

