



GROW DARLINGTONIA

No terrariums. No myths. No Nonsense.

Just the straight facts from guys who grow and propagate thousands of carnivorous plants every year.

RANGE

Darlingtonia is native to remote mountain streams in Southern Oregon and Northern California. A few smaller patches grow in lowland streams along the Oregon coast, but the majority reside in the coastal mountains.

WHERE TO GROW

As a cold-hardy perennial, *Darlingtonia* grows best outdoors as a container or potted plant. You may also grow it in a pond or fountain, but avoid submerging the plant. The water level should remain below halfway up the pot. Because of its specific soil requirements, avoid planting it directly in the ground.

SUNLIGHT

Darlingtonia requires partial to full sun (4 or more hours of direct sunlight) for vigorous growth during the growing season. Although *Darlingtonia* can grow in some shade, avoid full shade. When in doubt, give more sunlight.

HEAT TOLERANCE

Darlingtonia can withstand extreme heat for short periods of time. In its native habitat, *Darlingtonia* will experience temperatures of 104°F during the summer. However, if daytime temperatures rise above 90°F, nighttime temperatures need to drop significantly, such as the low 60s or less. **Cool nights are essential for the overall health of this plant.**

WATER

Your watering method is an important factor in growing *Darlingtonia*. Soil aeration is vital for it. We highly recommend watering your *Darlingtonia* daily and allowing it to drain through completely rather than setting it in standing water as you would for *Sarracenia*. Daily watering mimics what *Darlingtonia* experience in the wild, where a constant, slow stream of water washes over its roots, aerating the roots.

Darlingtonia is tolerant of relatively hard water, up to 150 ppm of dissolved minerals, so using pure water (under 50 ppm of dissolved minerals) isn't at all necessary as long as the water drains through the pot. If you choose to set your plant in standing water, you should use pure water, such as bottled distilled water, to prevent excessive mineral buildup.

SOIL

Over the years, we've experimented with a variety of soil mixes and found that a simple mix of one part peat moss and two parts perlite was as effective as other mixes we tried. You can top dress the medium with live sphagnum moss to prevent splash erosion when top watering. With peat-based soil, change the soil every 2 years to maintain optimal root health. Use short, wide pots to encourage evaporative cooling and colony growth.

WINTER CARE

Your plant will stop growing in early fall, and some pitchers will turn brown. These are signs that your plant will soon be dormant, a similar process when a rose bush goes dormant and drops its leaves in fall. While dormant, your *Darlingtonia* can withstand episodes of overnight frosts down to 20°F. If daytime temperatures are projected to rise above freezing, you don't need to protect it from these overnight frosts. However, protection is required during prolonged freezes to prevent dehydration or freeze drying, regardless of USDA zone. Covering your plant with a tarp or black plastic sheet will be sufficient if the freeze is expected to last for a week or less, which is typical for USDA zones 7 and 8. Otherwise, mulch may be required if you live in a region where freezing temperature is a way of life, such as in USDA zones 6 and colder.

Need more information about winter care? Watch the **Volume 1 playlist** and **monthly videos**. Our digital download, **The Ultimate Carnivorous Plant Guide for Beginners**, is also a fantastic resource if you are new to growing plants. You will learn how various elements – sunlight, water, soil, and humidity – affect plant growth and what to pay attention to during winter dormancy. Visit the website to access these resources.

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