



GROW NEPENTHES

No terrariums. No myths. No nonsense.

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

RANGE

The vast majority of *Nepenthes* are native to the tropical rainforests of Southeast Asia – Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand, as well as Papua New Guinea. A few species are also native to India, Sri Lanka, and Madagascar.

WHERE TO GROW

Many common varieties of *Nepenthes* originate where common houseplants originate, so they will grow spectacularly on sunny windowsills. Unobstructed windowsills facing south, east, or west are appropriate, the main concern being ample sunlight. Humidity is a negligible factor as these plants can acclimate to lower humidity. You may be able to grow *Nepenthes* outside if you live in a subtropical climate, like San Diego or Miami. Many can take brief overnight chills down to 40°F, but the day temperature should be in the mid 70s. Always avoid frost.

SUNLIGHT

Provide partial sunlight, several hours of unobstructed, direct sun with bright filtered light during the rest of the day. Avoid full shade. Sunlight is the key element in getting your plant to grow pitchers. The energy provided by photosynthesis is what grows the traps, and sunlight is essential for pitcher production and good color. With proper lighting, many *Nepenthes* can be grown as regular houseplants.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHTS

If a sunny window is not possible, use LED shop lights with an output of approximately 2,500 lumens or more. Avoid full-spectrum or so-called plant lights. These lights have red and blue diodes which can strain your eyes and do not significantly contribute to your plant's overall health any more than shop lights with white diodes. Start with the lights approximately 12 inches above the plant. Monitor your plant and adjust the height of the light source if you are not satisfied with its growth. Use an electrical timer to maintain a 14-hour daylight cycle.

TEMPERATURES

Chances are if you're comfortable in jeans and a t-shirt, your *Nepenthes* and other houseplants are also comfortable, so it's not necessary to fret about the temperature. They grow well when the day temperature is in the 70s with a nighttime drop into the 60s, common temperatures many houseplants thrive in. Avoid frost and prolonged exposures of temperatures in the 40s.

WATER

Unlike other carnivorous plants, *Nepenthes* will tolerate hard water (up to 200 parts per million) with almost no adverse effect. Make sure the water drains through the soil completely. Avoid standing water, as this can cause root rot in *Nepenthes*, and can make them susceptible to pests.

SOIL

Use a mix of 1 part dried sphagnum moss and 1 part perlite. Avoid using potting soil and compost, as their nutrient and mineral ingredients can kill carnivorous plants.

Need more information about growing *Nepenthes*? Watch our **Volume 3 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 how to troubleshoot common plant problems. Visit the website to access these resources.

Growcarnivorousplants.com