



GROW PINGUICULA - TROPICAL BUTTERWORTS

No Terrariums. No Myths. No Nonsense.

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

RANGE

Nearly all tropical butterworts found in cultivation are descendent from plants originating in south-central Mexico, the center of their diversity. Many are also native to the Caribbean islands, Central America, and subtropical regions of Florida. They come in all shapes and sizes. Some varieties grow as rosettes of broad leaves over half a foot across, while others are barely an inch wide. Some of the rarer ones have long, narrow, upright leaves, which make them look more like sundews than butterworts. Their variety is astounding, linked by the common theme of conspicuous, orchid-like flowers.

WHERE TO GROW

Grow your tropical butterworts indoors on a sunny windowsill. They appreciate a mild conditions, which is why they tend to do exceptionally well for growers in a maritime or mountainous climate. A cool windowsill (between 60° and 75°F) will encourage lush growth as long as they also receive enough sunlight. Humidity is a non-issue - tropical butterworts appreciate damp soil but too much ambient humidity can cause rot.

SUNLIGHT

Grow your tropical butterwort in a few hours of direct sunlight and dappled sun during the rest of the day whenever possible. Avoid the blazing hot afternoon sun during the summer months.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHTS

If a sunny window is not possible, use LED shop lights with an output of approximately 2,500 lumens or more. Avoid so-called plant lights or full-spectrum 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 a 14-hour daylight cycle.

WATER

Unlike most other carnivorous plants, **tropical butterworts are prone to rotting if the soil is too wet.** Keep the soil moist by top watering whenever the top soil begins to feel dry. Avoid letting the soil dry out completely.

If you prefer, you may keep your plant in small amounts of water, no more than 1/2 inch. If you use this method of watering, add more water only when the water evaporates completely from your tray.

SOIL

Use a coarse mix of one part sphagnum peat moss and two parts perlite. Never use potting soil or fertilizer; they will kill your plant.

Winter Growth

Some tropical butterworts have luscious leaves throughout the year. However, some varieties will drop their large leaves and form a tight rosette of smaller succulent-like leaves during winter when days are short. This type of formation is the plants' way of adapting to winter drought in the wild. It's not a true dormancy but a type of winter rest. They will resume regular growth after a few months.

Need more information about growing tropical butterworts? Watch our **Volume 2 playlist** and **monthly videos**. Visit the website to access these resources.

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