



GROW DROSER - TROPICAL SUNDEWS

No terrariums. No myths. No nonsense.

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

RANGE

Tropical sundews originate from warm climates of the world, such as South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and South America. In their native habitat, frost never or rarely occurs, and it never snows. Their preferred habitat is mostly open, wet fields, or cliff-side seeps where they can get lots of sunlight.

WHERE TO GROW

Many tropical sundews grown in cultivation are adaptable and can easily be grown as a houseplant on a sunny windowsill. If you live in a tropical climate where the temperature rarely drops below 55°F (13°C), you have the option of growing your plants outdoors. Regardless of where you grow them, always protect tropical sundews from excessive wind, blazing hot sunlight, and freezing temperatures.

SUNLIGHT

Some sundews, such as those of the fork-leaf complex, grow best in full sun and warm temperatures. However, most sundews are mountainous species, such as those native to South Africa and South America. So, they like lots of sunlight but mild temperatures. Provide partial sunlight (several hours of direct sunlight with bright filtered light during the day). While it's important to avoid extremely hot summer sunlight, avoid full shade. Sufficient sunlight is required for your plant to maintain its dewy appearance.

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 set a 14-hour daylight cycle.

WATER

All sundews require low-mineral water. If your tap water is relatively pure (less than 50 parts per million in dissolved minerals), then you can safely water your sundews with it. Otherwise, you can use distilled bottled water, rainwater, deionized water, or water filtered through a reverse-osmosis unit.

Keep the soil wet at all times, even during winter dormancy. You can do this by setting the plant in a shallow tray of standing water. Just make sure the water level remains below halfway up the pot.

SOIL

Use equal parts sphagnum peat moss and perlite. Never use potting soil, compost, or fertilizer; they will kill your plants.

Need more information about growing tropical sundews? Watch our **Volume 2 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.

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