

# VENUS FLY TRAP CARE

## WATERING

Flytraps enjoy plenty of water and humidity. A clear plastic cover is provided to allow humidity to gather and to trap moisture in the container. If the cover is used, the plant will only need watering every 3-5 days. Do not over water as the roots may rot. Use only distilled water or rain water.

## LIGHT

Natural sunlight is the best to allow the Flytrap to thrive and grow into an adult plant. Artificial light such as soft white florescent lamps can be used which mimic the spectrum of light the plants enjoy. The sign of a happy Flytrap is a bit of pink in their mouths/traps. Most plants grow well in a window with filtered light, approximately 8 hours daily of sun. You should not keep them in full sun, as Texas sun and heat will harm your plant.

## TEMPERATURES

The Flytrap thrives at temperatures of 70 to 80 degrees F. during the growing season. Temperatures should be lower during the winter, as the Flytrap requires some sort of dormancy. Dormancy can be achieved by placing the Flytrap in it's terrarium in a refrigerator and reducing the amount of water. It is best to treat the plant with some sort of fungicide before placing it into dormancy.

## FOOD

Venus Flytraps love bugs. The Flytrap uses the capture of a bug to supplement it's nourishment it receives through the soil. Insects are not vital to the survival of a flytrap but will assist in its growth. Never feed your plant people food. It *\*WILL\** die if anything other than insects are fed to the plant. Furthermore, never give your plant fertilizer. The root system is very fragile and fertilization will burn/kill the roots.

## TAMPERING

The Venus Flytrap is a delicate plant. The leaves which make up the 'traps' of the plant are designed to open and close a limited number of times (approximately 4-5). By inserting foreign objects such as your finger or a pencil eraser into the trap will cause it to prematurely close. Though this will not kill the plant, it will weaken the traps and may make them useless when a bug actually finds its way to the flytrap mouth.

## SOIL

Venus Flytraps show the best growth and survive the longest in acidic soil. The Flytrap kit you have includes Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss (shredded). This moss has an extremely high acid content allowing the plant to remain strong and healthy. If you choose to replant your Flytrap, you will need to use a comparable Peat Moss often found at hardware stores. Brands vary, but most Canadian types are the best growing soils. In addition, the Sphagnum Peat is very dense (unless using live moss) and needs sand or perlite for the root system and ventilation. If Peat moss is used without a means of ventilation, the roots of your Flytrap may rot.

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