



# AQUASCAPES UNLIMITED, INC.

[www.aquascapesunlimited.com](http://www.aquascapesunlimited.com)



## **Constant Moisture:**

Carnivorous Plants and their companions are native to bogs and wetlands with nutrient poor soils and high humidity. In nature, Carnivorous plants are often found upon tussocks which are surrounded by water. The mini greenhouses provided with the “Bugout” will provide ideal conditions. Alternatively the plants can be kept in shallow water trays where water levels are maintained less than 1” depth to give them “wet feet – dry ankles”.

## **Pure Water:**

Carnivorous plants need pure water and do not tolerate water with dissolved minerals (i.e. “bottled water, tap water, de-ionized, or softened water are not acceptable). Mineral free pure water is available as rain water, distilled water, snow melt, water from a dehumidifier, or dripping from an air conditioner. DO NOT FERTILIZE as carnivorous plants acquire nutrients from feeding – just like us!

## **Pure Soil:**

Carnivorous plants have evolved and adapted to environments absent of minerals in soil & water. In the wild, these conditions limit the competition and allow carnivorous plants to thrive where most plants cannot. The substrate upon which they grow is most often a mix of peat moss & sand. Typically a ratio of 1 part peat to 1 part sand is a suitable mix for most carnivores. Beach sand is NOT an option as it often contains residual salt or minerals. Perlite can be substituted for sand. Rice hulls & coconut husks (coir) can be combined for a more sustainable mix.

## **High Light Levels:**

Most carnivorous plants grow best in full sun. In nature, many are found in open sunny areas that are often disturbed by fire, beavers, or mankind. Red coloration is maximized in full sun. 6-8 hours a day is the minimum required for flowering. A bright sunny window or under fluorescent grow lights also will work.

## **Dormancy:**

Most carnivorous plants we offer are hardy perennials and thus require a dormancy period of at least 30 days @ 40 degrees F. All of the Sarracenias are hardy down to at least a zone 6 and can overwinter unprotected in outdoor in-ground bogs. Dormancy starts when light and temperatures start to decrease in autumn. During dormancy plants do not need light and the soil needs only to be damp. A garage, protected porch, or refrigerator are all acceptable methods of overwintering hardy potted carnivorous plants.