

SUNDEW CARNIVOROUS PLANTS

Drosera is a large genus of carnivorous plants with 194 varieties currently on record. Unlike tropical pitcher plants or Venus flytraps, these plants lure and capture their prey with sticky secretions that are held on their leaves. They are ancient plants, possibly the first type of carnivorous plant to be recorded. The name “*drosera*” is derived from the Greek word *drosos* meaning “dew” or “dewdrops.” The English name sundew that they are commonly referred to today is derived from the Latin word *ros solis*, which means “dew of the sun.” The two most common varieties that are seen on the retail market are *drosera capensis* and *drosera spatulata* both of which are prized for their ease of growth and maintenance. *Drosera capensis* is native to Cape, South Africa and is distinct with its long, strap like leaves. It is also commonly referred to as the “octopus plant.” *Drosera spatulata* on the other hand is a variable sundew that forms clumps of rosettes and it is native to Southeast Asia and China. All types of *drosera* are herbaceous perennials.



Latin Name: *Drosera*
Type: Herbaceous evergreen houseplant
Soil: Nutrient pool peat moss & perlite
Size: 7”
Hardiness: Hardy to 55 degrees
Exposure: Full, bright light
Growth Rate: Medium
Growth Habit: Clumping

Where should I plant my sundew?

Drosera capensis and *drosera spatulata* thrive indoors on a bright, sunny windowsill. They are not hardy below 55 degrees and need ample light to thrive. If their light needs cannot be met naturally, both species do very well when grown under bright artificial light.

How much water will my sundew need?

All sundews require mineral free water. If your tap water is relatively pure with less than 50 parts per million in dissolved minerals, then it can be used to water your sundew. Keep the soil wet at all times, preferably in standing water. Sundews grow very well in terrariums for this reason.

When should I fertilize my sundew?

Like many varieties of carnivorous plants, sundews do not need to be fertilized to survive. They have adapted to feed themselves with their carnivorous behavior. Placing the plant in a kitchen or somewhere it can receive the occasionally meal will suffice.

Are there any pests or diseases I should be aware of?

Occasionally, like many houseplants, sundews can be affected by common houseplant pests and diseases. These include aphids, mealy bugs, and thrips which can cause deformity in new growths. Any ailments can be treated with a ¼ strength diluted pesticide, except for insecticidal soap.