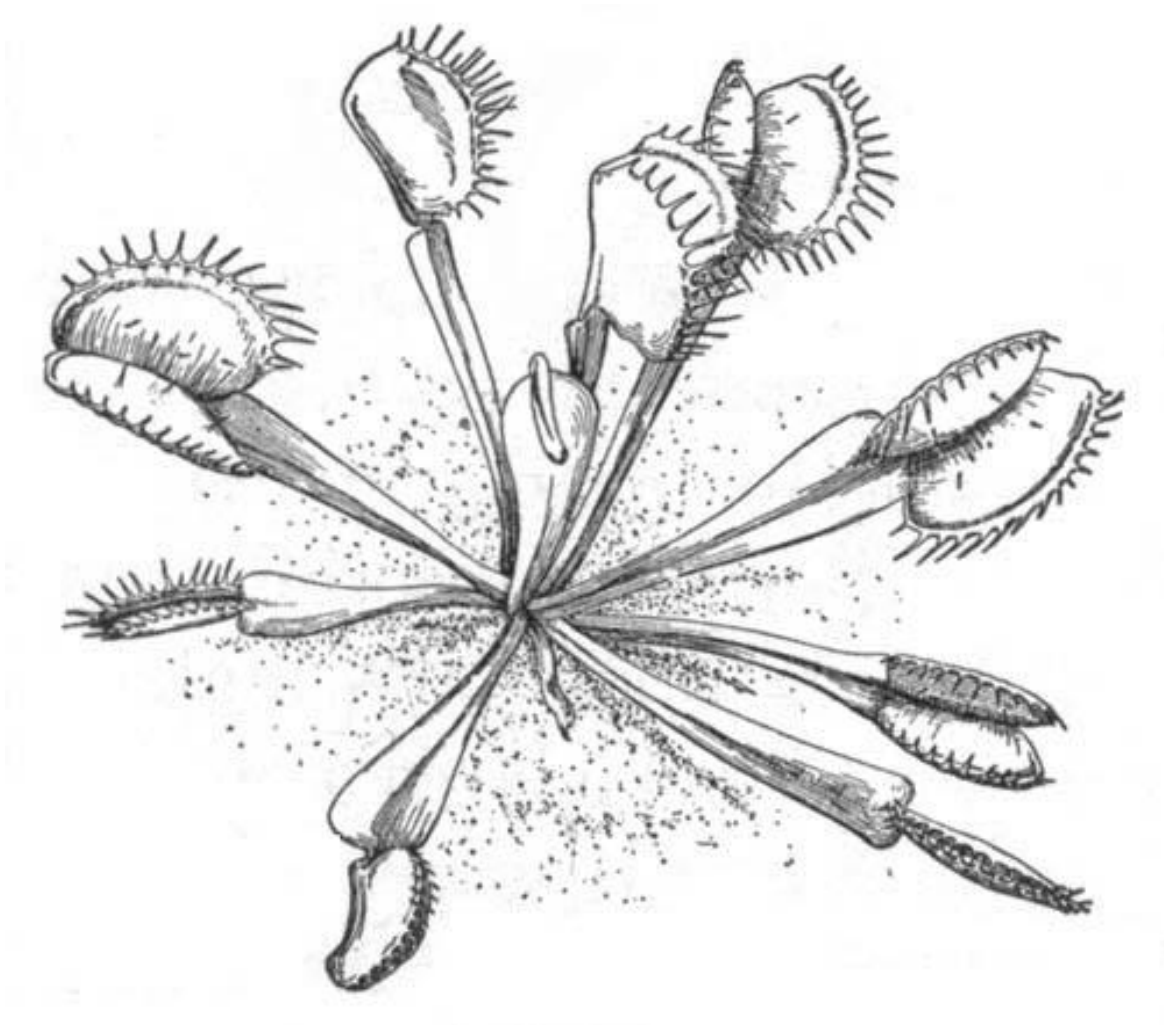




Aylett Nurseries
The Complete Garden Centre

Carnivorous Plants

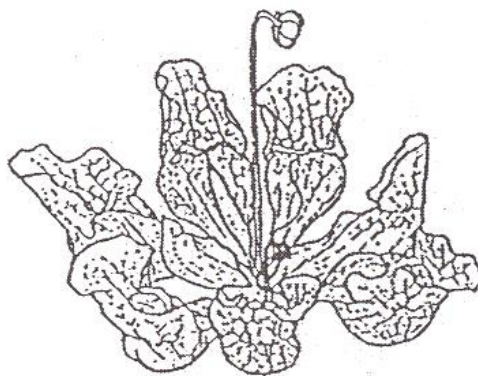
Information Leaflet No. 62



North Orbital Road (A414)
St. Albans
Hertfordshire
AL2 1DH
Tel: 01727 822255
Fax: 01727 823024
E-mail: info@aylettnurseries.co.uk
Web: www.aylettnurseries.co.uk

Insect Eating Plants are usually found growing on land or water which is deficient in nitrogen, for example, acid bogs. Their distribution is worldwide, including covering parts of the Tropical Rainforest in S.E. Asia and inaccessible places on plateaus of South America.

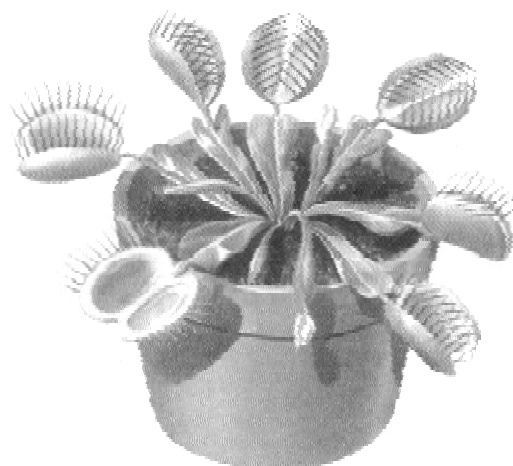
Over thousands of years these plants have developed clever ways of making up nitrogen deficiency by catching insects. The majority of plants are perennial, terrestrial (living in soil) and long lived, so they make interesting and fascinating subjects to grow yourself. You can easily create an environment similar to that in nature and start a collection.



VENUS FLYTRAP

ORIGIN

The Venus Flytrap (*Dionea Muscipula*) is a highly specialised inhabitant of the coastal swamps of Carolina, North America where most plants could not exist, owing to a lack of essential nutrients in the soil. Incredibly, by a series of leaf modifications the Venus Flytrap makes up for the lack of nutrients by turning carnivorous and obtaining them from insects it traps.



GROWTH

The plant develops a bulb or rhizome from which the leaves grow. A trap develops on the end of each leaf and will close in a twentieth of a second, if triggered by a fly lured into it by the promise of a meat meal. There are two quite distinct types of leaf; spring leaves which are broader and produce traps close to the plant, followed in the summer by much longer leaves which are more vertical in position and develop traps a greater distance from the rhizome.

IMPORTANT! Do not cause the traps to close artificially since this will lead to the premature death of the plant.

The plant likes a period of dormancy from about October/November through to February. During this period keep moist but do not stand in water.

CULTIVATION

The rules to be followed in order to achieve successful development of this fascinating plant are:

A - Use rainwater only for watering. Keep in a saucer of rainwater during the Spring and Summer.

B - Provide the plant with a warm, sunny aspect with humidity, but preferably on top of a radiator shelf.

C - Never feed the plant with any kind of fertiliser.

D - During dormancy keep the plant cool but frost free (min. temp. 45F (9c) Keep the compost just moist.

E - In the Spring when growth begins again it is advisable to remove the flower buds to avoid weakening the plant

F - Always remove any dead leaves to avoid the formation of Botrytis mould, a grey powdery mould easily attracted due to the wetness of your soil.

PROPAGATION

Propagation is by seed or from leaf cuttings.

DISEASES

The only common problem you may encounter is the Botrytis powdery mould, often causing rotting off of the leaves. Removal of such infected leaves is essential, followed by a short period of increased ventilation, until plant returns to former vigour.

NEVER use a copper-based fungicide as it will kill the plant.



IMMEDIATE AFTER-CARE

As and when repotting becomes necessary pot on the plant in a compost of Irish moss peat with about 40% silver sand added for drainage. Perlite is sometimes used instead of silver sand. Do not use sedge peat since this is alkaline and is poisonous to some carnivorous plants.



**This leaflet is available in
alternative formats.**

Please ask a member of staff or
Tel: 01727 822255
Email: info@aylettnurseries.co.uk

October 2004