



CASCADE CARNIVORES

CARNIVOROUS PLANT NURSERY

Newsletter July 2, 2006

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Newsletter launch

Welcome to our 1st newsletter of 2006 (actually our first newsletter ever)! So many folks expressed an interest in a newsletter when they registered on our website that we are pleased to offer you our premier July issue. We welcome your comments and suggestions for improvements.

New Catalog Items

If it has been some time since you visited Cascade Carnivores' website, be sure to check out our new stock items. Several New *Pinguicula* species and hybrids, as well as *Nepenthes* and *Drosera* have been listed recently. These include *Pinguicula* x "Sethos", *Pinguicula* agnata 'True Blue', *Pinguicula* moranensis var. *Orchidioides*, *Pinguicula* sp. 'Kohres'. *Nepenthes* additions include *Nepenthes* rajah (medium and large sized plants) and *Nepenthes* burbidgeae. *Drosera* binata var. *multifida* is our newly added sundew.

Drosophyllum lusitanicum

Several enquiries have come in asking when we will again be stocking Dewy Pines. We try to have an inventory of these at all times, but that requires sowing seeds on a rotation. There is a narrow window when these plants are large enough to ship, but not too large. Last batch of seeds failed to germinate, putting us behind on our schedule, and currently out of stock. Our projected date of availability is July 31st, but possibly earlier.

We sell Dewy Pine plants growing in unglazed terra cotta pots, ready to pot in larger pots upon receipt. This process is known as Slack-potting, named after the British nurseryman who developed this method of cultivation, Adrian Slack. What follows is a description of Slack-potting the Dewy Pine. Complete instructions are sent along with Dewy Pine plant purchases.

If you aren't interested in reading about Slack-potting, scroll down to view some of our picture gallery.

Slack Potting

Slack-potting is a method of planting the Dewy Pine using two pots, an inner porous, unglazed clay pot, and an outer (usually glazed, or non-porous) pot. The outer pot can be of almost any

material, usually weather-resistant, as the Dewy Pine can be grown outdoors in winter and is frost-tolerant. Before I go into details, it is important to understand the purpose of this method of planting. Slack-potting is for the purpose of providing the plant with the minimum moisture level necessary for proper growth. Dewy Pines come from an area where very little rain falls, the coastal areas of Spain, Portugal and Morocco. These marvelous plants find all the water they need from deep in the ground, and secondarily from the fog common in the early morning hours around the Mediterranean Sea.

Once you receive and unpackage your Dewy Pine plant, have available a large, decorative pot of your choosing. A 11-12" pot will provide enough room. The material is usually glazed clay (earthenware is generally cold tolerant). It must be a draining pot; any standing water would allow fungus to overtake your plant. After loosely covering the drain hole in the large pot, fill the lower portion with soil mix similar to the mix the plant is growing in. We use 1 part each of washed horticultural sand, perlite, vermiculite, pumice, and sphagnum peat moss. Firm it down enough to ensure it won't settle after planting. Place the smaller pot the plant comes in on top of this layer of soil, and fill in the gap between the two pots with damp long fiber sphagnum moss. Dried LFSM is available in many nurseries and through online purchases.

That's it. From now on, only water the sphagnum moss 'moat'. Water it whenever the moss begins to dry, but don't let it get crispy-dry. If it seems that I go to extremes, consider that the plant doesn't tolerate root disturbance: you can never repot it – that would kill it. And also consider the alternate method of trying to keep the soil around the plant just barely damp all the time. It can't be too wet, and it can't be allowed to dry out completely. Once Slack-potted, the Dewy Pine is easy to care for. Give it lots of sun, some shelter from the rain, and avoid hard freezes. I put mine in an unheated garage if temps get below about 29 deg. F.



N. rajah – typical sale plant



N. burbidgeae - 5" to 6" Pitchers



P. sp. 'Kohres'



P. x 'Sethos'



P. moranensis var. Orchidioides

Nepenthes (Tropical Pitcher Plants) additions:

N. burbridgeae – typical form – large, robust plants, 8” to 12” or larger in dia. \$24

Nepenthes rajah – typical form – medium, 5” to 7” dia. \$24

Nepenthes rajah – typical form – large, 8” to 12” dia. \$30

Pinguicula (Butterwort) additions - all are \$10:

Pinguicula x ‘Sethos’

Pinguicula agnata “True Blue”

Pinguicula sp. “Kohres”

Pinguicula moranensis var. orchidioides

Drosera (Sundew) addition:

Drosera binata var. multifida – only \$5.00

Thank you for your continued interest and support!

**-Ron West
Cascade Carnivores**