



CASCADE CARNIVORES

CARNIVOROUS PLANT NURSERY

Newsletter September 18, 2007

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Where did the summer go? After months of warm weather, and all of the nursery chores that accompany it, we finally find the time to publish a new newsletter. We hope you enjoy it.

Website Upgrades

Top of the list of changes to the website, the Picture Gallery pages have become more feature-rich. We have added a few species/hybrid images with lots more to follow, but look closer and you will see that the format of the individual images have changed. When you click on one of the thumbnails, you will notice that the pictures now come complete with a heading, and with links to the product information page for that specific plant. They also have a convenient "Return to Galley" button. This will allow you to return to the same spot you started in the Gallery. We think it makes surfing the Gallery a much smoother experience. Click here to be taken to the [Picture Gallery](#).

The sitemap has also had a facelift, and has been reorganized to make everything easier to locate. This is, after all, the purpose of a sitemap, to make your visit more enjoyable and to help you make the most of your limited time on our site. Take a look at the new [Sitemap](#).

Winter Dormancy

Temperate plants are well adapted to cold winters, and if deprived of this seasonal dormancy, they will usually languish for a year or two, and finally die. To have temperate carnivorous plants not just survive, but really thrive, you must provide them with at least 8 to 12 weeks of quality winter dormancy every year. However, there are some considerations to observe so that your plants live to greet the warmth of yet another spring. There are many ways to give plants a period of dormancy while giving them some protection from extreme weather. Cold frames can be used, or by placing them in a cellar, an unheated garage, or a crawl space. Some folks dig a hole in the ground, put their plants in the hole, and cover with at least 8 or 12 inches of some sort of mulch, such as pine bark, leaves, straw, grass, burlap, etc. In the dead of winter, a blanket of fluffy snow can even be used. There are probably as many methods as there are growers. What follows is only one possible method, but a fairly easy one, in our opinion.

In our location near Seattle, we are blessed with a microclimate born of marine air moving off the Puget Sound. The fortunate result is a mild climate very similar to that of North or South Carolina; in short, a near-prime Venus Flytrap growing climate. Also Sarracenia, many temperate

forms of Sundews, and Cobra Plants grow well year-round. Your results may vary...you may experience seriously cold winter weather where you are. Our general advice is to allow your plants to condition slowly into dormancy whenever possible. The easiest way to do this usually is to leave your plants outdoors as summer weather gives way to autumn, and then into winter. If your winter weather hovers around freezing, you will find the whole 'dormancy thing' easy. Ours usually stays in the low 40s to upper 30s, with occasional periods of mild freezing weather down to 28 deg F. Rarely, a cold snap will send us scrambling to provide extra protection from the elements for a few days.

If your weather is a bit more extreme, you might just find that artificial refrigeration will work for you just fine. Many folks place their Venus Flytraps, temperate sundews, American Pitcher plants, Cobra Plants, and other plants that require dormancy in the veggie drawer of their refrigerator. If you want to try this method, follow these guidelines:

- 1) Not all carnivorous plants require a period of dormancy. Be sure you know your plants and their requirements.
- 2) When possible, always allow your plants to enter dormancy naturally. Place them outdoors in early or late fall, and leave them until the weather becomes cold. Night temps down into the 30s should induce dormancy.
- 3) While still actively growing, your plants still need water. Continue to water using the tray method, or leave in the bog. Once they go dormant, which you usually can tell from the leaves starting to die back to the soil, they require only slightly damp conditions. Take them out of the water tray.
- 4) Most folks will take them out of the soil they are growing in after they are dormant. It is possible to do this next step in the pot, if you prefer. Just be sure that you first allow the soil to dry out a bit. You want it to be moist, not wet.
- 5) If you are removing your plants from their soil, place them in moist long fiber sphagnum moss. Then place them carefully in sealable plastic bags, sealed to prevent moisture loss, and store in your refrigerator's veggie section. If you want to keep them in their pots, place the plant, pot and all, in the baggie, then into the veggie tray for a period of at least 8 to 12 weeks. During this time take them out occasionally to inspect them for any signs of mold, usually due to overly wet conditions.
- 6) Keep them dormant, from November or December, until early spring, perhaps February. If you grow your plants outdoors during the spring and summer, let Mother Nature be your guide. If your weather starts to look sunnier and begins to warm up in March, then take your plants out of the refrigerator in March.
- 7) While your plants are dormant, and just before they start their early spring growth, is a great time to make divisions, if you are going to. This is a time for dividing Sarracenias and the rest, as they will not experience any transplant shock, nor stress from cutting them back. Just be sure that all of your divisions have some roots and at least 2 or 3 leaves.

New Catalog Items

In addition to the following plants and seeds, we now stock several of the soil mixes that we use here at Cascade Carnivores. These include Dewy Pine/Mexican Pinguicula Mix, Drosera Mix, Venus Flytrap/Sarracenia Mix and Highland Nepenthes Mix. Find these under Supplies in our catalog.

Nepenthes (Tropical Pitcher Plant) additions:

N. bongso – purple clone (Sumatra) – small, robust plants, leafspan 2” to 3” or larger \$15

N. sibuyanensis – (Philippines) – medium plants, leafspan 4” to 8” \$30

N. mira – (Philippines) – medium plants, leafspan 4” to 6” \$30

N. ventricosa – (Philippines) – medium plants, leafspan 5” to 6” \$12

Back in stock: **N. stenophylla – (Borneo) – medium plants, leafspan 4” to 6” \$24**

Coming Soon: **Nepenthes ehippiata – (Borneo) – medium plants**
N. talangensis – (Sumatra) – medium plants
N. dubia – (Sumatra) – small plants
N. aristolochioides – (Sumatra) – small plants
N. fusca, flared peristome – (Borneo) – medium plants
N. rajah – (Borneo) – large plants
N. spectabilis – (Sumatra) – large plants

Pinguicula (Butterwort) additions (\$10 each):

Pinguicula agnata Red Leaf

Pinguicula gracilis x moctezumae

Pinguicula ehlersiae

Pinguicula moranensis D

Coming Soon: **Pinguicula aganata Scented Flower**
P. ANPA D
P. ‘Seductora’

Drosera (Sundew) additions:

Drosera intermedia – medium plants, \$6.00

Dionaea muscipula (Venus Flytrap) additions:

Big Mouth – medium plants, \$12.00

Low Giant – medium plants, \$12.00

Seeds – Prices include shipping via 1st class Mail:

Darlingtonia californica (Cobra Plant) seeds – 20 seeds, \$4.50

Please note: The following pictures are intended to be representative of the plants we sell, and in many case are larger and more highly developed specimens than the plants in our catalog.



Pinguicula agnate Red Leaf



Pinguicula moranensis D



Dionaea muscipula 'Low Giant'



Drosera intermedia (New Jersey)

Thank you for your continued interest and support!

Ron West

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