



# VENUS FLY TRAP

'*Dionaea Muscipula*'

## THE ICONIC CARNIVOROUS PLANT

The Venus Flytrap originates from North Carolina. It is an exciting plant from a group known as "Carnivorous Plants". It doesn't actually eat meat like a lion would, but it does trap and digest insects. When an insect crawls over or lands on one of the trapping leaves, the insect may touch one or multiple of the sensitive hairs on the edge of the leaf. These hairs are what trigger the trap that snaps the leaf shut and trap the insect inside. The plant then releases a protein digesting enzyme that helps the plant to get the food it needs from the insect. When the leaf opens again, all that is left is a few dried out indigestible remains.

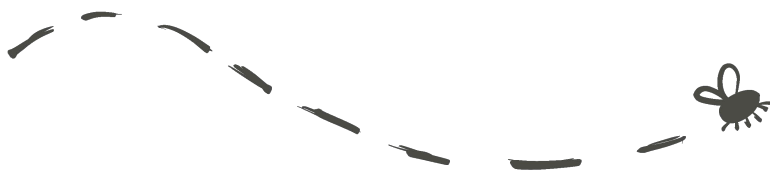
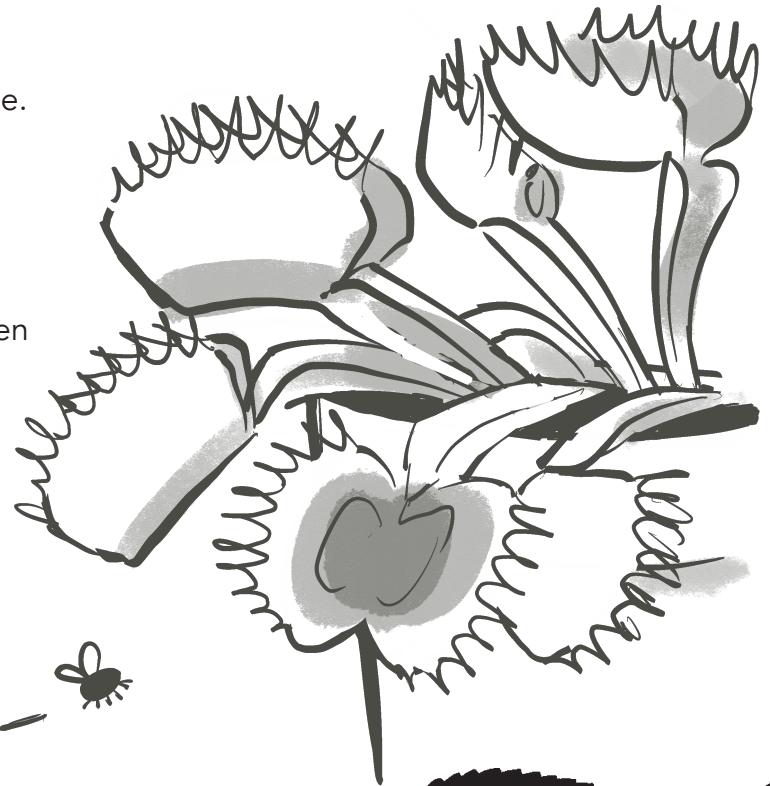
To observe the flytrap catching an insect, place a dead fly in the leaves with a pair of tweezers. Gently touch the hairs on the leaf and it will close. After a few days the leaves will open and the remains can be removed.

## GROWTH

Venus fly traps grow to a height of 6-8" tall. Given good growing conditions it will live for several years.

## CARE

Venus Fly Traps need plenty of indirect light to grow, but no direct sun, as this can scorch their leaves. The temperature that these plants live at should not go below 70° or the plant will go dormant. Venus Fly Traps grow best in glass or plastic jars. Terrariums are also a great container for this plant, as the humidity can be controlled. Never let the soil dry out for these plants. They are used to growing near bogs where the soil is always moist. You can set the pot in a shallow tray of water with a very weak solution of soluble plant food. When potting a venus fly trap, plant in loose sphagnum moss or peat. Venus Flytraps rarely need transplanting into new containers.



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