Sechelt Garden Club

Carnivorous Plants

Kryss Chamelia

Kryss described carnivorous plants as being nature's flypaper. Ultraviolet lights undetectable to the human eye attract insects into the plant mouth where they are digested. Some actually pollinate the flower before being consumed!

True carnivorous plants take up most of their nutrients from the insects they consume. They thrive in nitrogen poor soil. Some pseudocarnivorous plants still undergo photosynthesis.

What are Carnivorous Plants?

These plants obtain their nutrients through trapping and digesting animals. Digestion allows these plants to obtain nitrates. They thrive in nitrogen poor soil. Many look like succulents.

Butterwort flowers are distanced from the plant so the insects can be digested after pollinating the flower.

These plants are found on every continent except Antarctica. There are many species that thrive in temperate areas with some native to the east coast of the US. Temperate bogs host many species such as:

Sundews (Drosera)

Tropical Pitcher Plants ie Monkey Pods(Nepenthes)

Trumpet Pitcher Plants (Sarracenia)

Butterworts (Pinguicula)

Bladderworts (Utricularia)

Sarracenia

Carnivorous plants have ultraviolet colouring which attracts insects. Pheromonal sweet nectar is also employed for this purpose. These plants love to grow in sphagnum moss.

Carnivorous Plant Trapping Methods

Snap Traps (require movement) ie Venus Flytrap

These plants thrive in temperate climates. Many are native to the Carolinas.

Pitfall Traps

These plants trap prey in a rolled leaf that contains a pool of digestive enzymes or bacteria.

Sticky Traps

These plants glom onto insects.

Suction Traps ie Bladderworts

These plants have orchid like flowers. The traps are under the soil. They suck in prey with a bladder that generates an internal vacuum.

Soil for Carnivorous Plants

Carnivorous plants enjoy soil that is opposite to other plants. Acidic, nutrient poor and waterlogged soil is preferred. To propagate, use peat, pumice, perlite or sphagnum moss (which can be dried or live).

Watering Carnivorous Plants

It is recommended to use rain water to avoid too many minerals. Avoid water with a high mineral content. This can be compensated by using acidic soil.

Fertilizing Carnivorous Plants

First and foremost....let them eat insects! Dried bloodworms and specialty fertilizer which is low in nitrogen can be substituted for live insects.

Carnivorous Plant Pollinators

Insects! Their flowers grow a distance away from the plant so that after they pollinate....they are consumed!

Where can you obtain a Carnivorous Plant?

Try the pond section of your local Nursery. They can also be grown from seed obtained from another hobbyist. Tissue cultures can also be obtained from other hobbyists.

Propagation

Grown from seeds

By division

From leaf cuttings

Tissue culture

What is Tissue Culture?

This is where plants are propagated under sterile conditions. This method allows for mass production.

In conclusion, these awesome plants become dormant in the fall. Many carnivores are native to cold temperate regions and can be grown outside in a bog garden year-round. Most Sarracenia can tolerate temperatures well below freezing.

Summer Garden Party

Ann Booth, our past president, is looking forward to hosting a garden party again this summer. This will be a pot-luck event . Bring your favourite appetizer or party sandwiches, or a sweet for dessert. Beverages will be supplied.

Date: July 15,2023
Time: 2:00-5:00
Address: 6484 Gale Ave North, Sechelt

SAVE THE DATES
SGC Members' Drop-In Garden Tours

This was a big success last summer so we are doing it again on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30. Arrange a carpool with a friend or two, as we have some interesting gardens to see.
We will send addresses closer to the tour date.

July 19 Davis Bay area. Tamarack Place and Big Maple

July 26 West Sechelt. Cascade Green Park Butterflyway Garden,

Aug 2 Halfmoon Bay Ravens Cry Road

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NEXT MEETING
September 25, 2023 7:00
Speaker: Rand Rudland, nature photographer, giving us a virtual tour of the wilds of Borneo
More info in the September newsletter.

Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden
Gala Fundraiser Garden Party
August 9,2023 5:00-9:00 pm
hosted by Vicki Gabereau

For tickets: 604-996-3376
On-line: coastbotanicalgarden.org/gala

Go Native!

Woolly Sunflower

Eriophyllum lanatum

Woolly Sunflower is a spreading fibrous-rooted perennial herb, resembling a restrained version of dusty miller. Several hairy stems scramble upwards from the base and bear numerous much-divided silvery leaves. Robust mature plants reach to 60 cm (24”) tall but most often wild specimens rise about 30 cm (12”).

Buttery yellow blooms, 5 cm (2”) wide, face brightly upwards like miniature sunflowers. The flower is actually a flower head of numerous florets. Flowers are borne singly on long stems.

Flowers appear from early May to August, and in June in southwest BC. It thrives in dry, sunny spots and even on poor stony soil. It is recommended for shoreline plantings, in repeated drifts or in containers.

staff.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

A Butterfly's Journey

Suzan Essiembre

One of the most marvellous wonders in nature is the transformation of a caterpillar to a pupa to a butterfly.

Recently arrived and now set up in their individual tiny homes, with enough food to last 10 days, these caterpillars will soon begin their magical journey to become beautiful painted lady butterflies.

As a caterpillar, they grow constantly. Once fully grown they need to rest in a sheltered place for a week or two so they can change into a butterfly. They will be big, and move upside down in a "J" under the lid and lay still for a day prior to their final moult. They make a hard-shell casing called a chrysalis and attach it to the lid. Soon the butterfly will emerge to seek out a mate to lay the next generation of eggs.

When ready, the West Sechelt Elementary School kindergarten classes will release the butterflies, on a warm sunny day, in the Cascade Green Park Butterfly Garden.

May 22 chrysalis phase

Sechelt Garden Club members tour The Sunshine Coast Botanical Gardens

On a gorgeous May 19 th , SCBG hosts Paddy Wales and Mary Blockburger , guided two groups of 8 around the gardens highlighting the enormous amount of work their volunteers (and there aren't that many) have done to create a native garden, rhododendron garden, along with some history of the beginnings of the Botanical Gardens. It has become a beautiful attraction for visitors to the Sunshine Coast.

Paddy Wales guiding SGC members photo by Lee Tidmarsh