

# Youngsters Guide To Caring for Cape Sundews



## Caring for your Cape Sundew

Cape Sundews are a wonderful plant to grow and learn all about sundews. With a few easy guidelines your plant will grow and amaze you for years.

**Light:** Cape Sundews will enjoy bright sunlight and some direct sunlight. Try to give the plant 3 or 4 hours of direct sunlight each day if you can. An east window (morning sun) west window (afternoon sun) or south window (all day sun) are best in the fall, winter and spring. Try to avoid all day sun inside in summer. Try not to have the plant sit in a very hot sunny window as this may dry it out too fast.

**Water:** Cape Sundews love to have “wet feet”. For plants this means they like to be sitting in a bit of water all the time, especially in the warmer months. Put the pot in a saucer and let the water come about 1/3 or one half way up the side of the pot. Try not to let the saucer dry out completely, but always have a little water at least for the plant to sit in.

**Potting mix:** Your plant does not grow in “regular” soil or dirt, but in peat moss. This is very close to what it grows in nature. You can use either peat moss alone or peat moss mixed half and half with sand. Sandbox sand is OK, but beach sand is too salty and will kill the plant. You can repot the Sundew when it starts getting too big for the pot, and usually it does better if repotted every few years into a fresh mix.

**Feeding:** Usually a Cape sundew even in a house will catch some small flying insects for itself. If you want, small pugs can be placed a few times a month on the top of the leaves, and will feed the plant. Sometimes you might want to “wiggle” the bug if it is dead (use a tiny stick or toothpick) so that the bug touches a few of the tentacles with glue on them. This will often make the plant more active and the leaf may slowly close around the bug!

**Dormancy:** Cape Sundews do not go dormant like some of the other plants in winter, but they might slow down and even send out smaller leaves in winter for a while. This has to do with the less sunlight they get in winter. Once the days get long again the plant will start to grow faster and bigger once more.