

Carnivorous Plants

Discussion Questions:



- 1) Which plants are carnivorous?**
- 2) What do carnivorous plants eat?**
- 3) How do carnivorous plants catch their prey?**

Carnivorous Plants

There are more than 670 species of carnivorous plants that have been described by scientists. These plants have developed amazing ways of trapping and digesting small prey such as insects and arachnids:

- * Many plants produce an enticing smell or nectar to attract insects.
- * Some produce a sticky substance that looks like dew clinging to the hairs on the plant. When an unsuspecting insect lands on the plant it becomes stuck in the substance and cannot escape.
- * Some have bladder-like vessels that are covered in a waxy substance that is slippery for insects. When an insect lands on this they slip into the vessel and cannot escape.
- * Some plants have movable parts lined with highly sensitive hairs. When the plant detects movement they close the movable parts around their prey.
- * All of these plants produce an acidic substance that breaks down prey so that their nutrients can be absorbed by the plant.



Sundews

(Drosera Family)



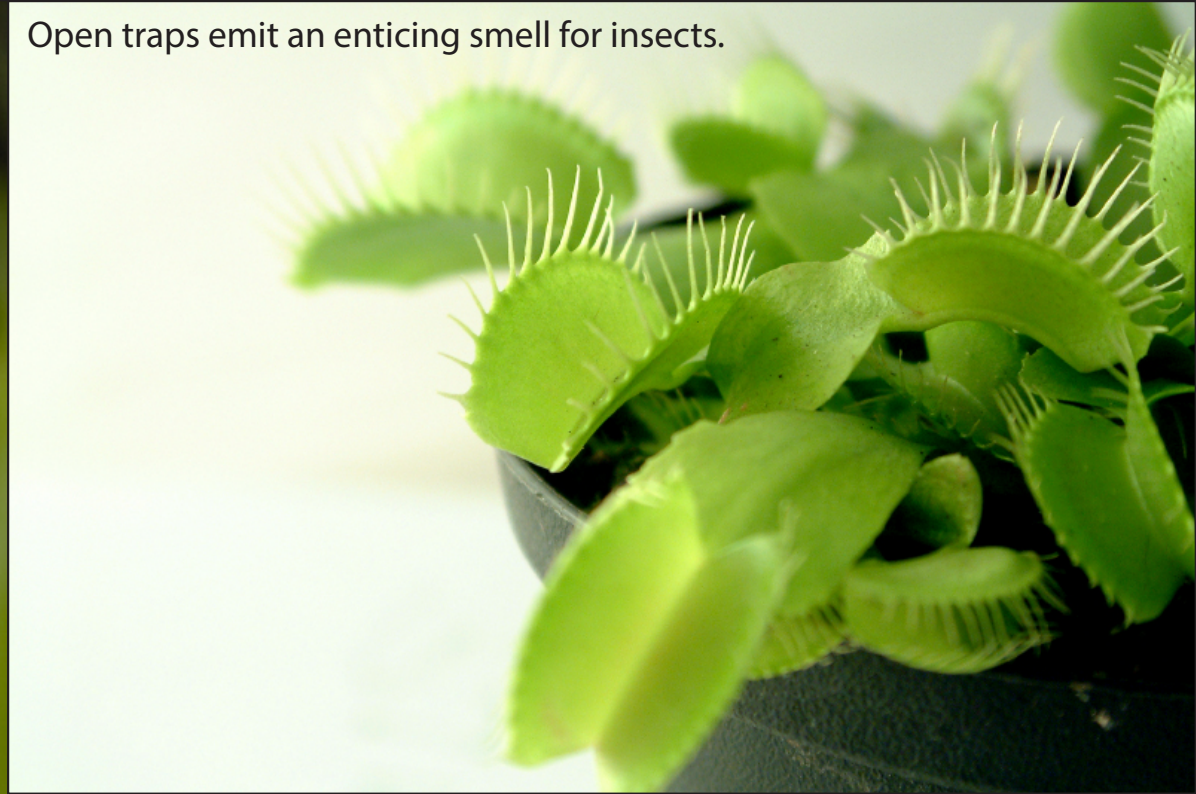
These plants produce a sticky mucous that looks like droplets of dew. When an insect becomes stuck in the mucous the plant curls around it.



The Venus Flytrap (*Dionaea Muscipula*)



Open traps emit an enticing smell for insects.



When the plant senses a creature walking in the trap it closes, trapping the creature inside.



Pitcher Plants

A pitcher is a name for a jug. The vessels on these types of plant look like little jugs. These plants produce an enticing nectar that attracts insects. The rim of the vessel is slippery so insects fall into the vessel and cannot escape.

The vessels are part-filled with water and these plants produce a substance that dissolves animals that get trapped in there.

