

Carnivorous Plants

Carnivorous plants obtain some of the nutrients they need, from trapping and eating animals. They may trap insects, invertebrates or small mammals and amphibians.

Carnivorous plants usually grow in areas that are low in nutrients, but they have adapted to their environment. They can get nutrients from other animals, instead of just from the soil or water directly. All carnivorous plants flower like other flowers.

Most carnivorous plants have developed a way to lure and trap other animals. Some traps are passive, while others are active. Each type of carnivorous plant uses different means to lure their prey.

Some carnivorous plants use scent and sweet nectar to draw prey in. Their trap is designed to hold the prey while the plant's digestive juices break down the insect. The bug falls into the well of the pitcher plant and drowns in the digestive juices. Pitcher plants are lined with fine hairs that point downward to prevent the bug from climbing out.

Most people are familiar with the snap traps of the common Venus Fly Trap. Snap traps are active traps with hinged leaves that can snap shut. When an insect triggers the hairs around the trap twice, the leaf snaps shut, trapping the insect inside. Carnivorous plants can also use pitfall traps, suction traps or adhesive traps.

Although carnivorous plants may use a variety of methods to trap insects or animals, they all digest the animal to use the nutrients for survival. There are over 750 different species of carnivorous plants