

There are really only four things Venus

flytraps require to stay healthy:

1. Sunlight: At least four hours of direct sunlight a day (i.e. full sun)
2. Water: rain, distilled or reverse osmosis water only
3. Soil: Nutrient poor soil such as peat moss or sphagnum moss and a pot with good drainage

Dormancy: Venus flytraps require a yearly dormancy period in the winter months



Lighting

Venus flytraps require a lot of light. They should receive at least 4 hours of direct sunlight a day with 6 to 8 hours being ideal. It is best to grow your Venus flytrap outside where it can get plenty of sun and catch its own food.

It isn't necessary to feed a Venus flytrap anything other than sunlight and water. If you do choose to feed it, feed it only insects and at most only a few insects a month. Feeding a Venus flytrap, or growing it somewhere that it can catch its own food, can help it grow much more quickly.



Watering

Venus flytraps need clean water. Most tap water will not be suitable for watering Venus flytraps due to the high mineral content. It is best to use distilled water, rainwater, or reverse osmosis water.

Venus flytraps need water with a TDS (total dissolved solids) measurement of 50 ppm (parts per million) or less. In order to get this, you will probably need to use distilled water or reverse osmosis water or rainwater.

If desired, you can use a TDS meter to test your tap water and see if it is usable. Growers often use water with a TDS measurement between 50 ppm and 100 ppm. However, this requires regular flushing and repotting to prevent mineral buildup in the soil.

Venus flytrap soil should be kept damp at all times. Venus flytraps prefer to have soil that is not soaking wet all the time. However, the soil must **never** be allowed to dry out. Allow the soil to dry to the point where it is just damp then thoroughly water the plant until the soil is completely soaked. Then allow the soil to dry to the point of being barely damp again before repeating the process.



Many growers set the Venus flytrap's pot in a tray of water for 30 to 45 minutes and allow the soil to soak up as much water as it can hold. Alternatively, Venus flytraps do enjoy being watered from the top. Pouring water over the top of the pot and allowing it to soak into the soil will carry some nitrogen down into the soil and aerate the roots.

Either way, when watering a Venus flytrap, ensure that the soil is thoroughly and evenly soaked all the way through. Then allow the soil to dry to the point where it is barely damp before watering again.