



**Garden Gate Greenhouse, Inc.**

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**Caring for Your Venus Fly Trap**

The Venus Fly Trap you have purchased at Garden Gate is enclosed in a plastic container with a top. This is to retain humidity. Your plant is planted in clean sphagnum peat (Canadian peat, not black peat). You only need to water it to keep it alive. Do not fertilize a Venus Fly Trap. It feeds itself!

Once you have your plant at home, place it on a windowsill that gets bright light, but not hot sunlight. An east or north window is good. You will need to remove the dome during the day so that your plant can catch flies and other insects. If your house does not have flies, you may have to catch some yourself and feed the plant. Do not overfeed. A plant only needs a few insects a year to survive. Replace the dome at night. Some people like to repot their plant in a bigger terrarium-type container and place it outside in a protected area. That way, the Venus fly trap can capture insects easily. If you repot your plant, remember that you should not use potting soil. Only use brown Canadian sphagnum peat moss.

Keep your plant evenly moist. Check to see if your plastic container has drainage holes. If not, it might be wise to cut one. That way your plant will not sit in water and possibly rot. Keep a saucer underneath to catch what leaks out. It is best if you do not use softened water. Your outside tap will provide water. Water should be at room temperature. You may cut off black traps. Once a trap has “digested” its prey, it will die back. New traps will appear regularly.

In the winter months, let your plant go dormant. Cut back all the leaves, put the bulb (corm) in a ziplock bag (not sealed) and place in the refrigerator for about 60 days. In early March, take the bulb out of the refrigerator and repot in Canadian sphagnum peat. Water thoroughly and put back on your windowsill. With luck, your plant will sprout new traps and be back in the bug-eating business once again!