

WHAT MAKES FLYTRAPS THRIVE

These perennial plants need sunlight and moisture. To maintain flytrap habitat, it is essential to have frequent fire or to prune shrubs and other plants that keep sunshine from reaching the ground. Lightning was once a source of frequent fires across the area. Today, we mimic those natural fires through controlled burning. If flytraps grow in maintained sites like roadsides, along lake edges, or under power lines, cutting back shading shrubs is helpful.

- They need moisture, so avoid ditching and draining your property.
- They don't need fertilizer or herbicides.

Photo below

Flytraps thrive after fire. © Angie Carl



You can learn more about Venus flytraps, including possible assistance for helping you manage flytraps on your property at:

VENUSFLYTRAPCHAMPIONS.ORG

FLYTRAPS IN YOUR BACKYARD?

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Venus flytraps have worldwide fame, but they only occur in the wild in your corner of the world, an area roughly 80 miles around Wilmington, NC.



WHERE DO I LOOK FOR FLYTRAPS ON MY PROPERTY?

Venus flytraps grow in longleaf pine habitats in two regions of the Carolinas: the Coastal Plain and the Sandhills. In the Coastal Plain where they are more common, they grow in wet pine savannas that are flat with moist soils. They may also grow along the edges of open water and in areas where water puddles. In the Sandhills, flytraps are limited to narrow, moist areas along small creeks between upland longleaf forests and evergreen shrub thickets and also to wet areas, or seeps, in longleaf pine uplands.

Venus flytraps are easiest to see when they are in bloom in late spring.

Photo left

Flytraps typically grow in longleaf pine savannas.
© Sydney Bezanson/The Nature Conservancy

Photo above

Flytrap bloom.
© Dan Hannon/TNC



WHAT MAKES FLYTRAPS SPECIAL?

Venus flytraps live in nutrient poor soil, so they supplement their diet with trapped insects. The Venus flytrap is one of the most widely recognized carnivorous plants on Earth due to its unique snap traps.

The “trap” is about an inch across and is made of two hinged lobes at the end of a leaf, each lobe equipped with hair-like projections that when ‘tickled’ cause the two lobes to snap shut, trapping insects. The trap will only snap shut if the hairs are touched multiple times so that the plant doesn’t waste energy on false alarms. The traps are edged with small bristles that interlock then the trap shuts so the prey can’t escape. Although there are lots of carnivorous plants in the world, flytraps are the only ones that capture their prey this way.

Photo above

Traps snap shut to ensnare insect prey. © Skip Pudney

Cover photo

Flytraps grow at the Green Swamp. © Skip Pudney