

CARNIVOROUS PLANTS

1. _____
Carnivorous plants are the name given to a group of plants which only share a single common factor that is that they all have a method of trapping and digesting living creatures in order to provide a means of getting food.

2. _____
Carnivorous plants have the most peculiar adaptations to low-nutrient environments. These plants obtain some nutrients by trapping and digesting various invertebrates, and occasionally even small frogs and mammals. Because insects are one of the most common prey items for most carnivorous plants, they are sometimes called insectivorous plants. Most plants absorb nitrogen from the soil through their roots. But carnivorous plants absorb nitrogen from their animal prey through their leaves specially modified as traps.



3. _____
It is not surprising that the most common habitat for these plants is in bogs (1) and fens (2), where nutrient concentrations are low but water and sunlight are usually abundant.

4. _____
As many as thirteen species of carnivorous plants have been found in a single bog. Two common carnivorous plants are the Venus Fly Trap and the Pitcher Plant.

1) bogs are saturated with soil water
2) fens are drained, regular water
3) fens are low nutrient, usually or partially with water.

5. _____
How these plants catch their prey varies widely from species to species. Most people think that all Carnivorous plants have traps which shut suddenly on incautious insects. However, the idea is that most Carnivorous plants have "passive" methods of catching their prey, most never move and simply wait for their prey to make a mistake.

6. _____
Carnivorous plants are fascinating because, even when they are not trapping insects, their unusual forms are intriguing.