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## **How to Grow a Forest of Sundews**

**By Jacob Farin**

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#### HOW TO GROW A FOREST OF CAPE SUNDEWS

Cape Sundews (*Drosera capensis*) are native to South Africa, and it is one of the most common carnivorous plants grown in cultivation. It is very easy to grow, and an adult plant will get up to 6 inches tall.

As with all sundews, Cape Sundews produce a thick sticky substance, technically called `goo' here at our nursery. We also call it `stuff' or `glue' or `thick sticky substance.' I'm also sure botanists have their own term, but it is usually something I can't pronounce, like hydromethylcellulose.

Whatever it is, it is the goo that makes Cape Sundews sparkle in sunlight. When you grow a bunch of them together, you will have a dazzling display that will mesmerize any insect.

These sundews are very easy to propagate. One very quick method is to grow them from seeds. Cape Sundew seeds germinate very quickly, usually within 3 weeks.

Once germinated, each seedling will reach adulthood within 2 years, at which time they will flower. Each flower stalk is capable of producing thousands of seeds. So from one adult plant, you can have enough seeds to produce a forest of sundews!

Another method for multiplying your sundews is to take leaf cuttings. This could be done with either young or mature plants because all you need are a few leaves.

Cut off a leaf near the stalk or growing point. Lay the leaf flat onto a pot of moistened soil of 1 part peat moss and 1 part perlite. Gently press the leaf into the soil so that the leaf is making good contact with the soil.

## How to Grow a Forest of Sundews

Once the leaf is set into the soil, spray it with a sulfur-based fungicide. This will prevent fungal infections and mold. You can find fungicides at your local hardware store or nursery. Make sure you follow the directions on the bottle.

Next, place a clear plastic cup over the leaf to keep the humidity very high, and place the pot in small amounts of standing water. Give your leaf lots of bright indirect light or grow it under 40W fluorescent tubes. You could also use compact fluorescent bulbs that are equivalent to 100W. Just avoid using incandescent bulbs. Keep the light source approximately 6–8 inches above the leaf.

Within 3 weeks, you will see tiny plantlets emerging from the leaf. After a couple of months, these plantlets will develop enough of a root system so that you could transplant them into their own pots. To do this, carefully cut out the plantlet from the main leaf and transplant it into a small pot of soil.

Each Cape Sundew leaf can develop up to 10 additional sundews. Because you do not have to wait until the plant flowers to propagate it, you can use this method any time of the year.

Leaf cuttings work well on nearly all types of sundews, including North American varieties. But, we have seen it work the best with Cape Sundews.

So, if you want to grow your own forest of sundews, try either of these two easy methods of propagation.

To learn more about growing Cape Sundews, visit <http://www.cobraplant.com/drosera-capensis.html>

Jacob is co-owner of Sarracenia Northwest, an online nursery specializing in the cultivation of beautiful carnivorous plants. For myth-free information about carnivorous plants, visit <http://www.cobraplatn.com>.

### **General information about Black Forest**

#### **By German News**

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#### General information about Black Forest

Almost every community has its own museum of local history. Many places remind you of the ancient trade of glass blowing and burning, and of course also of the rafts men who transported the huge Black Forest trees all the way to Holland. Mines open their galleries, castles their doors and visitors are welcome everywhere.

Just like a hundred years ago historic steam engines puff across viaducts and up the hills. Because old age is revered in the Black Forest. Many records are broken here.

## How to Grow a Forest of Sundews

You will find: the smallest free town of the Holy Roman Empire, Germany's largest leisure park, its highest waterfall and the area where you will find most of the Michelin stars given to restaurants all over Germany.

Somehow all roads lead to the pleasures which are essential for body and soul – the Badische Weinstraße (Baden Wine Route), the Asparagus Route and whatever all the others are called. There is probably one for the Black Forest ham, for the river trout, one for the beer brewed with spring water and one for the mineral water. But all these delicacies are served in every decent restaurant.

Accompanied by a local Riesling, Silvaner (white wines), Burgunder and Gutedel (red wines) from Ortenau, Breisgau, Kaiserstuhl or the Markgräfler Land (wine growing regions in the Black Forest).

And at the end of a meal a potent fruit brandy should not be missed.

But there are even special highlights. The brilliant chefs of the Black Forest have once again managed to receive almost three dozen Michelin gold stars. Due to the open borders to Alsace and Switzerland, Black Forest people are very receptive to innovations coming from the opposite side of the Rhine.

The Black Forest ham, the cherry gateau and the cherry brandy, the tasty honey and fresh trout have long since been as famous as the typical hats with the red pompons from the Gutachtal valley.

Between Pforzheim in the northern part of the Black Forest and Lörrach at the Swiss border families receive royal treatment. Kids are kings. For instance on a farm. They find animals to stroke and everywhere are small creeks.

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