

“THOSE PLANTS WON’T GROW IN YOUR CLIMATE”

JAMES BOWEN • Owner/operator • Lake County Carnivores • Pablo • Montana • USA • 89bowenj@gmail.com

Something I have heard several times, and probably will continue to hear. When I first started, I believed this and stayed away from *Nepenthes* and grew just a few *Sarracenia* and several Venus flytraps. Then, one day, I was talking to a couple different growers from the southern United States, people who have become friends and a great source of information, and they gave me the ridiculous idea to try *Nepenthes* × *ventrata*.

At first, my plant struggled, but eventually it acclimated. Now, I grow several *Nepenthes* and have expanded into other genera as well.

Growing these bog plants in an area with extreme temperature swings, extreme seasons, and pesky critters is a challenge, but it is definitely achievable. Here in Montana, our winters are brutal. We get snow measured in meters, rather than centimeters, and temperatures well below -20°C. When summer finally rolls around, everything dries out, and temperatures will reach above 40°C, with little to no humidity.

Dionaea, *Sarracenia*, *Drosera capensis*, and *D. binata* are all grown relatively the same way. During the beginning of spring, I simply put them outside and use the tray method to water. I personally try to not let my trays go completely dry, but if they do, it will help with algae build up—just don’t let your media go dry!!! Always be prepared to cover them during the beginning and end of the season. A mild frost is fine, but sometimes our temperatures will swing 30°C degrees in one day.

For *Dionaea* and *Sarracenia*, I use the fridge dormancy option. Once your plants are dormant, simply bag them up, with fresh, slightly moist peat (maybe a small spray of neem as well) and forget about them in the back of the fridge. I do this not to keep my plants cool, but rather in my climate, to keep them warm.

Drosera are brought inside and placed under lights. In some areas, *D. capensis* will form a hibernaculum, and be perfectly ok outside! I just personally haven’t been willing to sacrifice one yet to find out if it will survive here.

Nepenthes such as *N. × ventrata* and *N. “Miranda”* can easily be acclimated to grow outside here. I simply hang them under a tree or under the roof of my porch during the peak of summer, where they still get a few hours of light, but are shaded during the heat of the day. I spray them with distilled water 2 or 3 times daily, and plant them in peat. The peat tends to hold moisture better than long fiber sphagnum. Once the temperatures are below 10°C, I bring the plants back inside.



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