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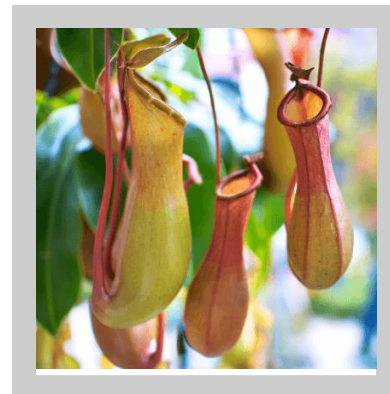
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The Carnivorous Plant Exhibit

Welcome to the carnivorous plant exhibit at the National Museum for Plants and Wildlife. For the next three months, the museum will display two popular species of carnivorous plants: the Venus Flytrap and the Asian Pitcher Plant.

Carnivorous plants are predatory green plants that capture and eat other animals. These plants attract, catch, digest, and process the nutrients from insects all on their own.

They are able to do this, because the leaves of these plants have special colors and nectar that can attract and trap insects. On Saturdays at 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, and 3:00 pm, a carnivorous plant expert will lecture about carnivorous plants and demonstrate this captivating feeding process in the promenade outside of the exhibit. You won't be able to keep your eyes off of this extremely interesting display!



Venus Flytrap

The Venus Flytrap is probably the most familiar species of carnivorous plant. They typically grow in the southeast part of the United States, because they prosper in warm, moist climates. Venus Flytraps are mostly known for consuming flies, but they will eat any insect that happens to become entangled in their trap. Because of their brightly colored insides, insects are easily attracted to Venus Flytraps. Once it lands, an insect will become stuck to the sticky pad. The flytrap will slowly begin to close and finally snap shut before it consumes the insect. It may take several days for an insect to be digested. If a Venus Flytrap is closed, you can tell it must have recently dined.

Asian Pitcher Plant

The Asian Pitcher Plant is named for its leaves, which resemble a beautiful pitcher. These plants typically grow near ponds. They are so attractive to insects because their pitcher-shaped leaves are multi-colored and mimic flowers. These leaves also produce tantalizing nectar. A curious insect will approach, take a sip, and then fall into the long narrow shoot to its death. The shoot is lined with sticky hairs that aid in capturing and digestion. Usually, they only consume small insects; but once in a while a small lizard or frog may stumble into the shoot and the Asian Pitcher Plant does not discriminate. If it fits, it feeds!