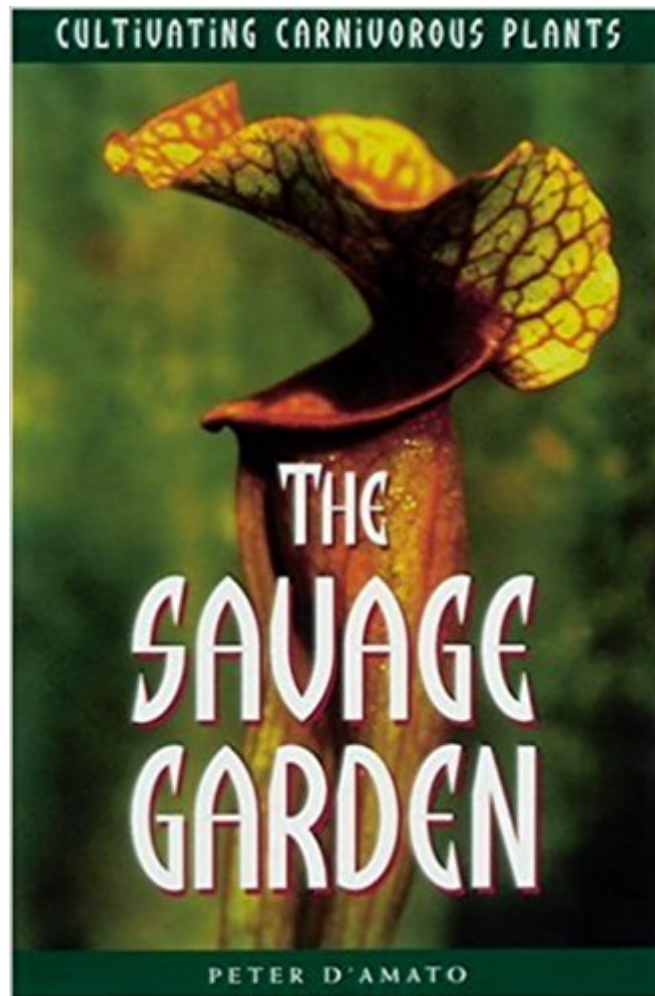




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The Savage Garden: Cultivating Carnivorous Plants



Synopsis

Just about everyone's familiar with the Venus flytrap...but did you know that there are pitcher plants that can-and do!-digest an entire rat? Or that there are several hundred species of carnivorous plants on our planet? Full-color photographs of the plants at work and play, plus everything you need to know to successfully grow your own Little Shop of Horrors. Awards 1999 American Horticultural Society Book Award Winner Reviews How to get kids interested in gardening? The San Francisco Chronicle recommends *The Savage Garden*, "because there's nothing children like better than catching insects and feeding them to their houseplants."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Peter D'Amato has been raising carnivorous plants for three decades, and his nursery, California Carnivores, houses the world's largest collection of flesh-eating flora. There's not much D'Amato doesn't know about growing these oddballs of the plant world, and he imparts his expertise gracefully and with humor in *The Savage Garden*, which is aimed at curious gardeners who want to grow carnivorous plants both indoors and out. From the ever-fascinating Venus flytrap to the aquatic bladderwort and the rather extravagantly sexual-looking pitcher plant, these exotic plants have a reputation for being difficult to grow, but D'Amato proves otherwise. The necessary water and soil chemistry, proper lighting, and propagation tips are discussed thoroughly along with descriptions and growing tips for many species in each of 11 plant families. If plants can have personalities, these do--or at least appear to in the hundreds of witty photographs and colored illustrations that

show them both at their hungriest and at their most innocuous. This is a stunningly comprehensive guide that will inspire and fascinate even the most squeamish gardener. -- Barrie Trinkle

Peter D'Amato has been growing flesh-eating plants for over thirty years. His nursery, California Carnivores, houses the world's largest collection of carnivorous plants. *THE SAVAGE GARDEN* is the 1999 winner of the American Horticultural Society Book Award and 1999 Quill & Trowel Award from the Garden Writers Association of America.

I purchased the actual book version of this reference a few years ago (signed by the author!), and am delighted to get it now in eBook form! Bookmarking and highlighting what I need to is a great feature. I have used this book as a total reference for my "carnies" that include a couple of rare sarracenia, a couple of pitchers from Borneo, a couple of VFTs, some sundews, a couple of Mexican butterworts, and even a species of bladderwort! I get all my plants from D'Amato's online store "California Carnivores." I've never had a bit of an issue with them or this book, in either version. From planting medium to light and temperature requirements, to water and fertilization restrictions/requirements, this book will tell you everything you need to know. If you want to get into this hobby a little, make sure you understand what these plants are and what they need by reading this book.

The Positive: A great read for beginners. Far from all-inclusive but certainly all a person needs if they are just starting out or are fairly new to the hobby. With access to forums and Facebook groups, people don't necessarily have to rely on printed books for information on how to grow CPs anymore. I've been growing CPs for over 20 years and I've found many things through trial and error and by asking other growers. Carnivorous plants are a lot easier to grow than people think, and the ideas and inspiration you can get from other growers around this community go far beyond what any book can provide. Having said that if there was one book I'd recommend to people if they absolutely had to have a book or just really wanted one, it would be this one. It covers all the bases quite well.

This book is a must have for anyone considering raising carnivorous plants. A friend loaned me his copy of this book when he heard I was interested in growing some carnivorous plants. It was so full of information and loads of pictures that I had to get a copy for myself. Very in depth and chock-full of information. There are lots of color photos as well. If you are considering raising carnivorous plants, this should be the first purchase you make.

This book deserves a place on every reader AND gardeners bookshelf. Whether you grow CPs already, plan to grow them or are just interested in the Darwin's favorite plants, this book is the one you need to purchase. It contains detailed information on all of the carnivorous plant species, sub-species, hybrids, etc. There are brilliant pictures as well as instructions on how to grow or propagate the plant to accompany the information.

The first edition of this book was and still is THE reference for growing carnivorous plants. There are other better tomes for the academically inclined, but this one will inspire and challenge you to make growing CP's a lifetime pursuit. This one I bought not because of anything else it brought to the table (though there is new information scattered throughout this revised edition) but out of appreciation for what Peter had contributed to my life in the first one which I purchased in 2003. In the last 11 years, my CP collection has spiraled out of control from a couple of flytraps and sundews in '03 to terrariums scattered all around the house with some CP's (Neps mostly) being grown like common house plants. In retrospect, I wish I had bought the revised edition from California Carnivores (Peter's store) where it is still available autographed by Peter D'Amato. If you even think you might be interested in CP's, this book is for you.

It was recommended to me a few years ago by a serious website on various bog and carnivorous plants. I asked them for a good book as I had had fair to poor luck over years (including setting up peat bog terrariums that were watered with distilled water....) and managed to keep something alive for about 8 months. I finally bought the book and it was well worth it. If you truly want to keep pitchers, sundews and trap plants; this is a good reference. I don't like wasting \$ on print reference so if I give it 5 stars it was worth my money. Hopefully in the spring I will be set up to adopt some specimens and be able to keep them healthy and happy this time.

Never had much luck growing carnivorous plants and the information was scarce and sometimes too much academic. I had to import some books from France to understand a little more about this amazing critters, but it was never quite suffice. This is a great and very interesting book with lots of important information. I wish I had found it earlier. - It would had save me lots of money in plants that died under my clumsy care and in boring books filed with scientific jargon that was in most cases useless in a practical manner to keep the plants alive and thriving. Pages and pages of dissertation about the discussion on how to or why to classify this particular species in this particular

group. I call this Book a Manual because there are so much important stuff about how to grow, raise, reproduce, maintain, fertilize and feed Carnivorous Plants that is like a consulting book that stays available to know more and how to solve problems when they arrive with dealing with those amazing unusual plants. But don't get me wrong, No one reads manuals like reading a novel but you will read this book from its first page to the last one. Very well written and very interesting practical information with hundreds of pictures that will clarify your concept of Carnivorous Plants. Loved reading the book and the Author even throws some pieces of humor dealing with technical and scientific stuff. If you want to know about Carnivorous Plants, get this book.

My wife and I picked up our first American pitcher plant *S. leucophylla* 'tarnok' at the UC Botanical Garden, and were nothing short of amazed. We wanted to know more. This book answered every question we could possibly ask in terms of plant care and was incredibly easy to navigate. Our pitcher plant is still thriving, and we have added a *N. ventricosa* to our collection of household pitcher plants in East Bay, CA. All we could ask for is more pictures!

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