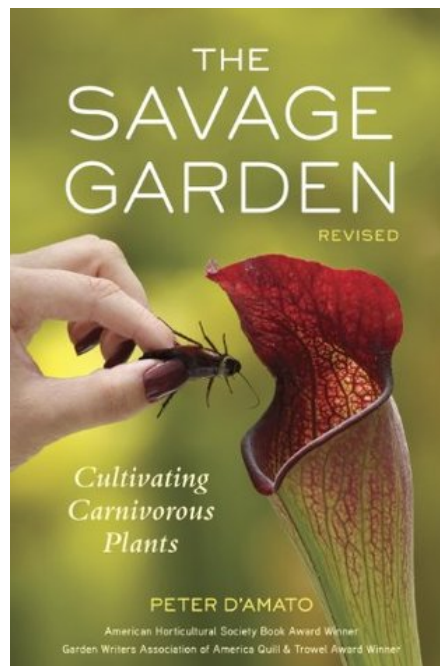




The Savage Garden, Revised: Cultivating Carnivorous Plants

Peter D'Amato

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For fifteen years, *The Savage Garden* has been the number one bestselling bible for those interested in growing carnivorous plants. This new edition is fully revised to include the latest developments and discoveries in the carnivorous plant world, making it the most accurate and up to date book of its kind.

You may be familiar with the Venus flytrap, but did you know that some pitcher plants can—and do—digest an entire rat? Or that there are several hundred species of carnivorous plants on our planet? Beautiful, unusual, and surprisingly easy to grow, flesh-eating plants thrive everywhere from windowsills to outdoor container gardens, in a wide variety of climates. The Savage Garden is the most comprehensive guide to these fascinating oddities, gloriously illustrated with more than 200 color photos. Fully revised with the latest developments in the carnivorous plant world, this new edition includes:

- All the basics—from watering and feeding to modern advances in artificial lighting, soil, and fertilizers.
- Detailed descriptions of hundreds of plants, including many of the incredible new species that have been recently discovered and hybridized.
- Cultivation and propagation information for all the plant families: pitcher plants, Venus flytraps, sundews, rainbow plants, bladderworts, and many other peculiar plants from the demented mind of Mother Nature.

Whether you're a beginner with your first flytrap or an expert looking for the latest exotic specimen, this classic book has everything you need to grow your very own little garden of horrors.

The Savage Garden, Revised: Cultivating Carnivorous Plants Details

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Download and Read Free Online The Savage Garden, Revised: Cultivating Carnivorous Plants Peter D'Amato

I wish I had read this book BEFORE I got into carnivorous plants, it would have saved me quite a lot of headaches (and the lives of several plants).

My knowledge of carnivorous plants is limited, but this is THE authority on all species that occupy this realm. Wonderful descriptions, photos, growing advice and the latest in newly discovered species of carnivorous plants. A must have or must read for those interested in these plants as a hobby or simply curious.

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D'Amato is an authority on carnivorous plants. His lifetime of research and study as well as his personal experiences during the heyday of CP identification and generation of cultivators gives this book an edge over any other CP book on the market. This book is tremendously accessible; the author works hard to emphasize that the study and understanding of these plants something any gardener can do.

A very detailed book for beginners and experienced growers of carnivorous plants. D'Amato gives a wonderful description of each plant along with care tips that are sure to make any carnivorous plant healthy and happy. Not only that but it comes with amazing pictures and unlike other plant books this is one that won't bore you to sleep. After reading this book you'll want to learn even more about these unique plants and- if your not already-encourage you to try growing your own.

If you've ever bought a venus fly-trap and had it die on you, but would still like to give it another try, this is

the perfect book. And not just for fly-traps, but nearly every other carnivorous plant out there!

This book is packed full of information on all kinds of plants that trap and eat insects. But best of all, Peter D'Amato, who runs the largest retail store selling such plants, gives helpful advice on how to grow them. Pretty much everything from soil mixes to light and humidity levels is detailed out here. He even gives lists of plants that do well in different settings, such as windowsills, terrariums, and outdoor bogs. And the writing style is such that it is easy to understand and follow, and even has a nice sense of humor. And while the author's experience is growing them on the Pacific Coast, the advice is easily adaptable to other climates with some adjustment.

This is a must-have book for anyone interested in carnivorous plants - and the "bible" for anyone who hopes to grow them successfully.

Boggy says

This is THE book to own if you want to learn about cultivating carnivorous plants! Written by Peter D'Amato, the owner of California Carnivorous, a carnivorous plant nursery in Southern California, this book covers pretty much everything about these fascinating plants you need to know in order to grow them, or learn about the species. Buy it on Amazon.com.

Joe Silber says

This is basically the Bible of carnivorous plants. The beginning section talks in general about how to grow and care for them. The bulk of the volume is a reference tome on the main genres of carnivorous plants (sundews, venus flytraps, American pitcher plants, Asian pitcher plants, and a few others). Each type of plant is discussed in a general sense, followed by amazingly detailed listings of subtypes with descriptions and photos (and noting if anything about caring for that particular subspecies stands out from the norm), and finishing with a detailed care guide for the genus, including propagation methods.

The book isn't perfect. I'd have liked more detail on plant care and troubleshooting both in a general sense and for some of the more particular plants. Some of the species descriptions lack pictures to go with them (although the book has an absurd wealth of photos, honestly).

Some of this information is available online (most nurseries that sell online have at least some basic care information), and if you are just interested in, say, growing a single Venus flytrap, you don't necessarily need this book. But if you are interested in collecting and growing a variety of carnivorous plants, or just want to learn about the wide variety of species, this is a book you should own.

Jamie Henderson says

The Savage Garden was just what I was looking for in a book about carnivorous plants. It covers a short history of what biology/botany has thought about the plants, the different kinds of plants, and cultivation. It was useful that it contains a generalized section on tips and methods for cultivation, and then a lot of specific information for many different species of plants. A key to the enjoyment of the book is D'Amato's obvious love of the subject and many, many years of experience growing, caring for, and propagating many different

varieties of carnivorous plants. This book is very much aimed at the lay person who is interested in growing these strange and wonderful plants in their own home or garden.

Emily Bragg says

I'm thoroughly biased, but this was an excellent guidebook with good information for identification and cultivation, with lovely images all the way through.

Jesse says

anything you ever wanted to know about growing carnivorous plants is in this book. also, peter d'amato can be found at his shop california carnivorous, and will be happy to help you learn about the plants.
<http://www.californiacarnivores.com/>

Tealmermaid says

This is the definitive book on carnivorous plants, written by one of the owners of California Carnivores nursery. Everything from potting mix options, whether or not to fertilize, dormancy, and more is covered in great detail by an author who knows his stuff.

Read this before you kill your new carnivorous plant with misinformed kindness. Your plants will thank you.

Teneik says

Carnivorous plants are relatively expensive, and not always locally available. They also can be easily killed with kindness. I highly suggest buying this book before investing in any of these beauties. It allowed me to really figure out what I was getting myself into, and gave me a good sense of what plants I could realistically care for. I can only imagine how much money I would have wasted/plants I would have killed if I didn't have this book. Photos are gorgeous, and the information is wonderful.

Jessica says

This is the book to get if you want to cultivate carnivorous plants. Its filled with useful color photos and chapters on every category of carnivorous plant out there, even some of the newly discovered and disputed ones. Also, if you are in the bay area, I highly recommend a trip to the author's shop, California Carnivores. It is worth a 100 mile detour, even though that wouldn't be very green... hmm... Propagate!

Anju says

The Savage Garden is a fascinating and comprehensive treatment of the world of carnivorous plants. D'Amato is the owner of the California Carnivores nursery, and he clearly conveys his passion and extensive knowledge to the reader. Throughout the book, one gets the feeling that he wants nothing more than for you to share his wonder and to be successful.

D'Amato begins with a discussion of the basic concept of what is a carnivorous plant, which is more complicated than one might at first assume. D'Amato points out that even petunias, which are not considered carnivorous and thus are brought up only in passing, trap insects that might otherwise do them harm. This book concentrates, however, on semi-carnivorous plants, which digest prey by enlisting the help of bacteria or insects such as assassin bugs, and true carnivores that produce their own digestive enzymes.

The care of carnivorous plants is somewhat specialized—but the basics are easy enough to master. Although they are found throughout the world, most have rather growing environments: they like sun and acidic soil that is wet, low in nutrients, and through which slow moving water flows. If grown in culture, the water should be highly purified water obtained through reverse osmosis—perhaps the biggest barrier towards growing carnivorous plants. Growing media seems more easily obtained from suppliers of orchid media. Several species require terrariums or other protected spaces, but many can be grown on windowsills or in bog gardens. D'Amato covers any specialized needs under the listing for each individual plant.

The book is organized by genus, beginning with the venus flytraps. Remarkably, there is only one species within this genus, which is native to only a small portion of—believe it or not—the Carolinas. Likewise, cobra plants (a variety of pitcher plant) are native only to Northern California and Southern Oregon. North America features prominently in The Savage Garden, and D'Amato points out that North America probably has the widest variety of carnivorous plants in the world.

In addition to venus flytraps and cobra plants, D'Amato discusses pitcher plants from all corners of the globe, dewy pines, rainbow plants, sundews (perhaps my favorite of all the varieties discussed), butterworts (or pings, which are also quite lovely), bladderworts (a primarily aquatic genus that preys upon small water animals such as daphnia), and a few plants that simply don't fit elsewhere, but are fascinating nonetheless.

Eventually the individual descriptions of varieties and cultivars does become tedious, but once in a while there are gems, such as his description of the flowers of the bladderwort *Utricularia sandersonii*: "Miniature orchid-like flowers with faces of angry little bunny rabbits...." This particular variety is accompanied by a photograph, and the flowers are just as D'Amato describes.

The book is full of color photographs of numerous carnivorous plant varieties. This fact is all the more impressive since all of the plants have been grown either by D'Amato himself or by his nursery.

Finally, I would encourage you to take the time to read the appendices. Many species of carnivorous plants are endangered due to habitat destruction or overexploitation by enthusiasts and collectors. In many sections, D'Amato writes about the plight faced by carnivorous plants in the wild, but I think he does so most poignantly in a brief anecdote tucked into the appendices.

Whether you intend to grow carnivorous plants or not, I highly recommend reading The Savage Garden.

And yes, the title is a reference to one of Anne Rice's novels.
