



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

TROPICAL PITCHER PLANT CARE

LIGHT

Tropical pitcher plants (Nepenthes), including commonly sold alata-type plants, need very bright light. Gentle direct sun with filtered light for the rest of the day is suitable after gradual acclimation. Protect from scorching midday heat. If leaves grow without pitchers, check light first.

WATERING

Use rainwater, distilled water or reverse-osmosis water. Water the mix thoroughly and allow excess to drain completely. Water again as the surface begins to lose moisture, before the root ball dries out. Never leave the pot standing in a deep saucer of water.

SOIL

Use a low-nutrient, airy Nepenthes mix, such as long-fiber sphagnum moss and perlite. Do not use ordinary potting soil, compost or pre-fertilized mixes. The pot must have drainage holes. Repot only when crowded or the mix breaks down, handling the fine roots gently.

TEMPERATURE & HUMIDITY

Common houseplant types grow well with days in the 70s°F and nights in the 60s°F. Protect from frost, cold drafts and prolonged chilling. Humidity helps, but many common hybrids adapt to household conditions. Maintain airflow; high humidity cannot compensate for insufficient light or unhealthy roots.

FEEDING

Do not apply ordinary houseplant fertilizer to the potting mix. The pitchers can capture small insects themselves; routine hand-feeding is unnecessary. Avoid meat, household food or overfilling traps. Specialist fertilizing methods require careful dilution and should not be substituted for suitable light and growing conditions.

SEASONAL CARE

Nepenthes are tropical plants and do not need a cold winter dormancy. Keep them warm and bright year-round. Older pitchers eventually brown and may be trimmed when fully dry, leaving healthy leaves intact. Newly moved plants may pause pitcher production while adjusting to their surroundings.