

Sarracenia 'Cobra Nest' Care Guide

Habitat: Cobra Nest grow naturally in the bogs, pocosins and fens of the coastal plains of the southeastern United States. They grow among the sedges in the open sun, where the moist soil is typically a sand/peat mix, usually dominated by sand. The climate is generally warm temperate. Summers are hot and humid and winters are generally mild with occasional cold spells and even light frosts. Rainfall is about 8"/month (20cm) in the summer and 5"/month (12cm) in the winter.

Culture: A standard soil mix of peat and sand works well if planning on transplanting. The ratio of peat and sand is not critical. Mature Cobra Nest prefer a deeper large pot of 6-8" (15-20cm) because of their long roots. Most do best when the soil is evenly moist, but not soaking wet. They can tolerate very wet, even submerged conditions, for weeks at a time. Let the soil become drier; yet remain somewhat moist, during winter dormancy. Cobra Nest prefer full sun and develop their best colors in very bright light.

Dormancy: A winter rest period is required of mature plants. As day length and temperature diminish the plant will slow its growth and many of the traps will die back, starting at the tops. Cut back on winter watering, but allow the soil to stay moist.

Feeding: The Cobra Nest is constantly luring, trapping and digesting weary prey with their passive traps. They are quite good at this, and provided with natural access to insects they will "feed" themselves. Even indoors they will attract and capture an occasional fly or other insect. Do not feed them meat or cheese. This will likely rot and kill the trap. If feeding is desired, drop in a few dead crickets, wasps or similar insects. Freeze dried food from the pet shops works well.

Other Considerations

- It is generally a good idea to remove the flower spike when it forms. If left to grow, it draws energy from the plant and can weaken a potted plant to the point of death.
- If planting in a pot, it is generally a good idea to repot every few years.