

Drosera auriculata



Waking the Sundew: Propagating the Delightfully Sticky *Drosera auriculata*

The world of carnivorous plants is endlessly fascinating, and among these botanical oddities, sundews hold a special allure. Their glistening traps, adorned with sweet, sticky droplets, are a sight to behold. One such captivating species is *Drosera auriculata*, a tuberous sundew native to Australia. If you're already smitten with this charming carnivore, you might be wondering about the magic of propagation. Luckily, multiplying your *Drosera auriculata* is an achievable feat with a little know-how.

Two Paths to Sundew Success: Seed vs. Leaf Cuttings

There are two primary methods for propagating *Drosera auriculata*:

1. From Seed: A Rewarding, if Lengthy, Journey

- **Collecting Seeds:** Your *Drosera auriculata* will flower in

the spring, and with successful pollination, tiny black seeds will form in seed pods. Allow the pods to dry completely on the plant before collecting the seeds.

- **Sowing the Seeds:** Sow seeds in late summer or early fall, mimicking their natural cycle. Use a well-draining carnivorous plant mix (peat moss and perlite work well) and keep the soil consistently moist.
- **Patience is Key:** Germination can take several weeks to a few months. Once seedlings emerge, provide them with bright, indirect light and maintain moisture.
- **Note:** Growing from seed can be slow, but it's a chance to witness the entire life cycle of your sundew.

2. Leaf Cuttings: Faster Results for the Impatient Gardener

- **Choosing the Right Leaf:** Select healthy, mature leaves for cuttings. The best time is during the growing season (spring and early summer).
- **Making the Cut:** Using clean, sharp scissors, carefully snip the leaf as close to the base as possible.
- **Ready for Planting:** Lay the leaf flat on top of moist carnivorous plant mix. You can gently push the cut end into the soil, ensuring good contact.
- **Light and Humidity:** Provide bright, indirect light and maintain high humidity (a humidity dome or a sealed plastic bag over the pot can help).
- **New Growth:** In a few weeks, you should see tiny plantlets emerging from the base of the cut leaf.
- **Note:** Leaf cuttings generally provide quicker results compared to seeds.

Essential Care for Your Newly Minted Sundews

Regardless of your chosen propagation method, newly developing *Drosera auriculata* need special attention:

- **Bright, Indirect Light:** Avoid direct sunlight, which can

scorch delicate leaves.

- **Consistent Moisture:** Keep the soil consistently moist but never waterlogged. Use distilled water or rainwater to prevent mineral buildup.
- **Humidity is Key:** These sundews thrive in humid environments. A humidity tray or a nearby humidifier can be beneficial.
- **Feeding Time:** While they obtain nutrients from the soil, supplementing with small insects like fruit flies can benefit their growth.

Propagating your own *Drosera auriculata* is a rewarding experience for any plant enthusiast. With a bit of patience and the right care, you'll soon have a collection of these enchanting carnivores to admire and share!