

## Light

Correct lighting is the single most important factor in getting *Nepenthes* to produce pitchers.

Use bright light from a south or east window.

Alternatively, use artificial lighting. Both work fine.

However, they may stop pitching during the shorter, darker days of winter.

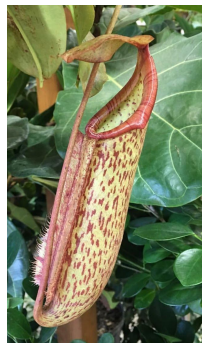
## Humidity

Some more specialized *Nepenthes* require especially high humidity, but many can grow perfectly well in homes.

A terrarium is also an option, but remember that *Nepenthes* can grow quite large!

## Feeding

Some people use a weak fertilizer solution in the pitchers. It's best to learn more before attempting to fertilize—and go easy at first!



*Nepenthes*  
*Miranda*



*Nepenthes*  
*Ventrata*



*Nepenthes*  
*sanguinea*



#indoorsun #50yearsofindoorsun

f @indoorsunshoppe

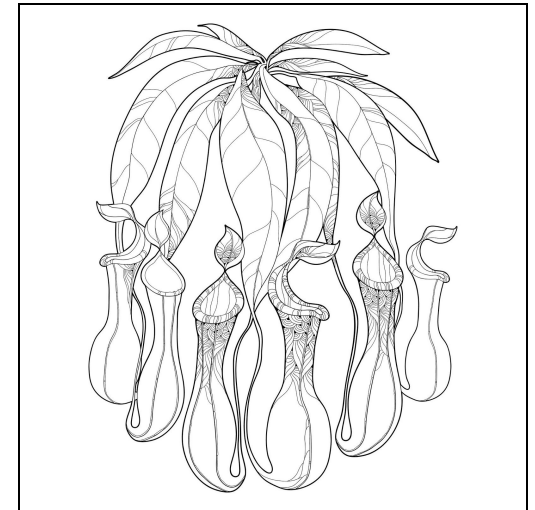
ig @indoorsun

160 N Canal St.  
Seattle, WA  
(206) 634-3727

[www.indoorsun.com](http://www.indoorsun.com) / [info@indoorsun.com](mailto:info@indoorsun.com)

# *Nepenthes* ("Monkey Cups")

With 171 species and counting, *Nepenthes*—or Asian Pitcher Plants—are far more varied than the American or Australian pitcher plants. They're also completely unrelated to them.



Pitcher plants are an excellent example of what is known in biology as convergent evolution; that is, two unrelated groups of plants evolving similar mechanisms to meet similar needs. Many have strikingly different lower (rosette) and upper (vine) pitchers.

*The Indoor Sun Shoppe*

## Trapping

While the details vary, *Nepenthes* employ a combination of nectar and color to attract insects, and slippery surfaces to ensure they are trapped. They secrete their own pool of digestive enzymes. Most have lids to prevent the liquid from being diluted by rainwater. The liquid is also viscous, making it very difficult for prey to escape.



A few have even evolved to serve as “toilets” for forest shrews. Among these is a pitcher that has abandoned insect trapping altogether, to serve instead as a bat “hotel,” reaping the benefits of their high-nitrogen feces.

## Types

*Nepenthes* can be divided into two main groups according to their native habitats: Highland and Lowland *Nepenthes*.

**Highland *Nepenthes***, which grow on mountaintops, require cool temperatures, from 45-65 degrees—though many can withstand higher temperatures for short periods. They all appreciate a nighttime drop in temperature.

**Lowland *Nepenthes*** prefer nighttime temperatures of at least 70 degrees, and daytime temperatures in the 80s and 90s.

These can be challenging to provide for, but there are also intermediate species and hybrids which are much more tolerant of typical home conditions.

Three of the easiest are *Nepenthes* “*Ventrata*,” *Nepenthes* “*Miranda*,” and *Nepenthes sanguinea*, which has many different forms (see photos on back).

## Soil

Unlike *sarracenias*, most *Nepenthes* are not bog plants. They prefer a light, well-aerated medium. There are as many different combinations as there are growers, but a few that work well are:

- Coconut fiber and Sphagnum moss
- Sphagnum moss and orchid bark
- Live Sphagnum, chunky peat, large perlite, and silica sand.
- Bark, sphagnum, and wood charcoal.

*Nepenthes* also resent root disturbance, so repot very carefully!

## Water

**Never** leave *Nepenthes* standing in water, but water frequently and allow them to drain completely.