

For many centuries the Venus Fly Trap (VFT) has been admired and treasured worldwide. In a 1750 letter, the Governor of North Carolina described the plant's extraordinary insect eating capabilities. When well-known scientists, botanists, and collectors became aware of this plant, the local names, "Meadow Clams" and "Tipitiwitchet", were replaced by present Latin and common names representing a beautiful and captivating goddess. There is a popular Darwin quote describing this plant as "one of the most wonderful in the world". At the time of Darwin, the scientific and naturalist community published many astute observations of *Dionaea muscipula* as part of a quest to better understand the connection of humanity with the environment. A book titled, *The Harmonies of Nature; Or, The Unity of Creation* by G. Hartwig in 1866 describes this plant with animated and lively language:

The leaves of the Venus's Fly-trap (*Dionaea muscipula*), a marsh-plant of North America, are still more curious, as their wonderful contractility gives them an offensive power quite unique in the vegetable world. They are oblong, and divided by the mid-rib into two halves inclining towards each other, and beset on the upper surface and along the edges with long and stiff bristles. At the slightest touch the two halves instantaneously clap together, the bristles on both sides fitting into each other, so that if a fly settles on an opened leaf it is immediately caught as in a trap, and forced to remain in its highly uncomfortable position as long as life lasts, for the least movement stimulates the contraction of the leaf.

For many years plants were harvested aggressively from a very geographically limited area and sent worldwide. Even in 1910, the VFT was rare in its native habitat as noted by a report in a Congressional Serial Set.

Tipitiwitchet. A former popular name for *Dionaea muscipula*, the Venus's fly-trap, or hog-eye, a North Carolina plant, now nearly extinct, noted for the extraordinary irritability of its leaves, which, when touched by an insect, collapse with a sudden spring and imprison the intruder. The word is from Renape (Virginia Algonquian) *titipiwitshik*, 'they (leaves) which wind around (or involve)'. (W. R. G.)

Feeding hamburger and refined foods will harm the plants. Commercial greenhouses manage to grow large number of plants from tissue culture and have developed some very colorful and exotic cultivars. Some great vendors include carolinacarnivores.com and californiacarnivores.com. There is an Oregon operation with a storefront at Flytrapcare.com. This gorgeous and informative website shows propagation by seeds, leaves, and divisions.

I am confident that VFTs used for medicine come from ethical growers. A patent was filed in 1985 by a German Scientist for a whole plant extract, named Carnivora, for the treatment of cancer. Another Carnivora patent filed in 1988, claims the product works for herpes and colitis. Carnivora has an interesting website with some scientific validity. My inquiry on Herbmensor.com requesting personal experience observations was not answered. I would like to see more unbiased research so that I can make a more informed decision on the value of this plant as a medicinal herb. To that end, I have purchased some plants from joelcarnivorousplants.com with the intention of making an alcohol extract. I will see if I can duplicate the Carnivora formula and gain a personal perspective on its usefulness.



A similar type medicine is described as an extract of the whole plant and costs less than Carnivora and is readily available.



Venus Fly Trap Extract Eclectic Institute 1 oz Liquid
by Eclectic Institute
★★★★★ 9 customer reviews

List Price: ~~\$27.20~~
Price: **\$19.08** (\$3.98 / oz) & **FREE Shipping** on orders over \$35. [Details](#)
You Save: **\$8.12** (30%)

Only 13 left in stock.
Sold by NetRush and Fulfilled by Amazon. Gift-wrap available.
Want it tomorrow, April 16? Order within **3 hrs 41 mins** and choose **One-Day Shipping** at checkout. [Details](#)

- Name Venus Fly Trap
- Quantity 1 Oz

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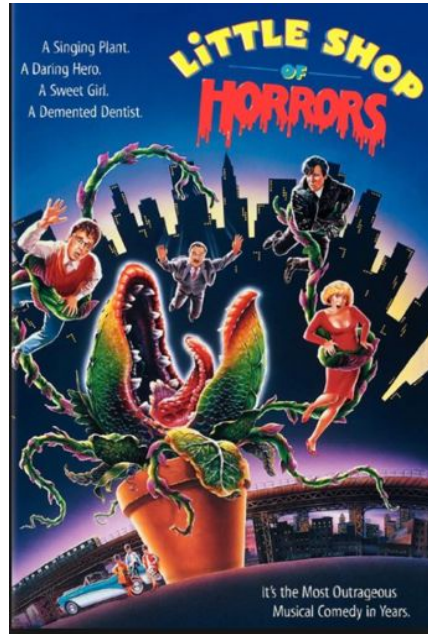
Amazon customer reviews from verified purchasers are generally positive. One customer had success with treating psoriasis by taking the product internally despite the fly like odor and taste. An owner's

dog with a terminal diagnosis of cancer is now doing well and has lots of energy. The VFT Extract is mixed in the dog's food bowl. One person's skin lesion has almost gone away with several external applications of drops. I examined medical literature on the validity of the healing claims and am undecided on the merits of this VFT extract. I suspect that patients are using many healing modalities for their medical condition at the same time and so the exact influence of the VFT Extract is hard to figure out. I would love to know indigenous medicinal use of this plant to help validate present day claims. This knowledge is not appearing in my searches. A conversation with an Indian Healer in the Carolinas could be very enlightening. I contacted the North Carolina Historical Museum and the North Carolina Native Plant Society seeking information about folklore and ethnobotanical use of VFT by the Waccamaw Indians. In terms of folklore, I was informed that among older white residents of Lake Waccamaw, that a Halloween ritual reminded you "Come in so the VFT won't get you". Interestingly, the early name Tipitiwitchet translates as "vagina" and there is a great blog that describes the name history here. <http://tywkiwdbi.blogspot.com/2010/02/etymology-of-tipitiwitchet.html>

Undeniably, the most important contributions of this plant to mankind are the curiosity and fascination aspects, which stimulate the imagination and energize us. Many of us adore these animated plants and attribute them with strong moods and behaviors. Recently, I bonded with my 14 year-old nephew while making a purchase of VFTs at a farmers market in Raleigh, North Carolina. My nephew normally avoids eye contact and conversation with me. With the plants, he became very excited and engaged with me. I consider this to be a very positive milestone in our relationship and am likely to buy him more carnivorous plants soon.



As humans we are always looking for meaningful relationships. We anthropomorphize and identify with a plant that actively captures and kills nasty houseflies with a beautiful thorn covered clasping mechanism. Throughout the ages, we see evidence of inspiration and fantasy. The popular drama titled the Little Shop of Horrors features a man-eating plant that looks very much like a comic image of *Dionaea muscipala*. Google Images has many gorgeous and colorful pictures.



Pictured below is the VFT manifesting itself as an adult Halloween costume. I can easily imagine many party guests wanting to share finger food, gummy worms, and a Tequila caterpillar cocktail with this costumed figure. I will bookmark this outfit idea for a future party event.

Adult Venus Fly Trap Costume

★★★★☆ [@reviews](#) [Q&A](#) By: Forum Novelties



Facebook Twitter Pinterest

\$49.90 Reduced Price

Was: \$46.53 (You save \$18.63)

\$4.99 shipping

Quantity: 1

Sold by Wholesale Party & Costume Supply | [Return policy](#)
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Shipping See delivery options Not available

The Venus Fly Trap feeds off the blood of small insects by trapping them in their leaves and killing them. A Fly Trap this big can only feed on human ... [More about this item...](#)

A child's toy sold on toysrus.com features the sophisticated skill and power of this plant. The VFT is clearly a plant that makes people of all ages happy and excited. For so many reasons, I would prefer to purchase a living VFT instead of this tacky plastic toy as a gift for a young child.

Home | Action Figures | Role Play
Zelfs Venus Flytrap Spin Salon
★★★★★ 5 Reviews | Rate and Review | Ask a Question
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In summary, I think that most of us will never see these amazing plants in the wild since there are so few in a very geographically limited space in a wetland environment. Conservationists are truly challenged with preserving existing populations. You have every right to purchase enjoy the live greenhouse grown and propagated VFTs that you find at the mall or online. Share them with your children. My own experience has taught me that I cannot keep them alive very long since my children tend to poke and prod them too much, being motivated by the desire to see eating in action. You may want to experiment with VFT extract medicine since there is evidence for its medicinal value spanning three decades. Please share any of your experience with cultivation and medicinal use so that we can have a better understanding and relationship with this remarkable plant. In closing, I urge you to look at the nature photos taking by a Carolina Biologist and Photographer Todd Pusser at his website <http://toddpusser.photoshelter.com/>. Here is a screen shot of his stunning photo of a VFT feeding on a young grasshopper.

