Drosophyllum lusitanicum

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Drosophyllum lusitanicum can be easily grown by using the following method. I use a 150 mm plastic pot, with a compost of 2 parts peat, 2 parts potting mix (any good commercial type) with the course material sifted off, and 1½ parts horticultural sand. Before placing this mixture in the pot, line the drain holes with sphagnum moss, as this acts as an indicator, and retains the potting medium.

Stand the pot in 115 mm of water, and take 3 seeds, and nick a small piece out of the blunt end. Plant the seeds near the centre, about 3 mm deep. Cover the pot with a sheet of cardboard, and place a sheet of glass over this. The seed normally germinates in about 4-6 weeks at a temperature of approximately 24 C. Keep a close check on the seed, and when it germinates, remove the covers, and place the pot in a well lit area, out of direct sunlight.

Once the plants are approximately 25 mm high, remove the pot from the water tray, and place it on a bench. By watching the sphagnum moss in the drain holes, you will be able to tell when to re-water the pot. As the moss gets drier, it will become lighter in colour. Do not let the pot become too dry, as the plant may die. To water the plant, place the pot back into the water tray for about ½ hour, and then remove it back onto the bench.

Once the plants are about 100 mm high, a few rocks may be placed in the pot, along with a little sand, to dress up the pot. The plants may now be gradually exposed to some sunlight, but do not overdo it at first; some morning sun is usually quite adequate. Remember that the pot will dry out much quicker in warm weather, and may need watering daily, whereas in cool weather, every few days will be adequate. The plants will flower in their second year of growth.

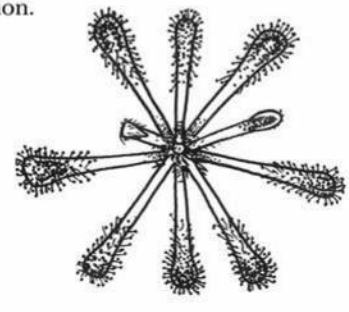
A few important points worth mentioning are, never transplant this species, as it will result in the early death of the plant, and do not water the pot from above, as this may cause rotting of the stem at ground level. With due care, this species can prove to be easy to grow in cultivation.

Drosera montana

Bruce Pierson

Drosera montana is an easily grown plant for its first season of growth. After flowering, this species tends to go dormant, often failing to recover in the following season, or if it does, a much smaller. inferior plant seems to result. I find it best to treat this species as an annual, planting seed each season, or taking leaf cuttings. Both methods of propagation prove very successful, and the plants will grow quickly through the spring.

A variety of potting mixes seem quite suitable, ranging from peat to 2 peat 1 sand, or anything in between. Watering is by tray, with a depth of approximately 20 mm being satisfactory. A 100 mm pot will accommodate up to 4 plants quite easily. This species is very similar to *D. spathulata* Kanto type, and with its white flowers and slightly pinker tone, it is a plant worthy of inclusion in any collection.



Drosera montana
Drawing by Ron Fleming