

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Cobra lily: unusual traps and cool roots

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AI-created scene based on the original shop image. Size reference: 9 cm pot · delivery height not stated. Decoration not included. Not a product photograph to scale.

Grow with knowledge.

A collection for observation and reference. Detailed explanations to help you make care decisions suited to your plant and its position.

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PLANT PORTRAIT

Darlingtonia californica

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Botanical classification	Darlingtonia californica
Family	Sarraceniaceae
Origin	Northern California and southwestern Oregon, USA
Delivery size	9 cm pot · delivery height not stated
Growth and special feature	Rhizome-forming carnivore with upright to ground-level curved pitcher traps and underground runners

Care at a glance

Observe, check and adapt care to the position and season. This table provides guidance for everyday practice.

Topic	What to do	Why it helps
Light	Bright and airy, protected from hot midday sun.	The plant needs light without overheated root space.
Water	Keep evenly moist with low-mineral water.	The root ball must not dry like succulents.
Cool roots	Shade the pot and renew warm water reserves.	Overheated roots may suffer despite moist soil.
Compost	Acidic, low-nutrient and loose; special carnivore mix.	Ordinary pre-fertilised potting compost is unsuitable.
Fertiliser	Give no ordinary houseplant fertiliser.	The plant is adapted to low-nutrient conditions.
Traps	Do not fill with meat, cheese or fertiliser.	Independent insect catching is enough as a natural supplement.
Winter	Bright and cool, frost-protected in the small pot.	Allow rest while keeping the root ball moist.
Checks	With wilting, first check water quality and root temperature.	Moist soil alone does not prove suitable cultivation conditions.

Knowledge that grows

A trapping leaf with many details

The cobra lily's curved hood recalls a raised snake. Pale translucent patches look like small windows, with a forked appendage below. These specialised leaves catch insects. *Darlingtonia californica* belongs to the pitcher-plant family and comes from a limited area of western North America. It is not a tropical houseplant for dark warm rooms all year. Anyone enjoying close observation and able to provide a suitable cool root zone will find a particularly interesting carnivore.

Gently acclimatise a small plant

A 9 cm pot is offered. The shop gives no specific delivery height; the original photograph shows a small collection of young trapping leaves. Large mature pitchers are therefore not a guaranteed delivery condition. After unpacking, protect the root ball from drying and initially choose a bright airy position without heat buildup. Do not immediately cut every older or slightly discoloured trap. Their development also depends on age and season. Carefully remove only entirely dead material without injuring fresh shoots or rhizome.

Light above, cool conditions at the roots

Cobra lily needs brightness while its roots may react sensitively to overheating. A sheltered outdoor position with gentle sun and shading in hot hours often suits better than an overheated windowsill. Protect the pot itself from strong direct radiation and allow air movement. A dark pot in a hot standing-water tray is unfavourable. On warm days, check not only leaf position but also container and water-reserve temperature. Cooling cultivation measures matter more here than the greatest possible hours of sun.

Low-mineral water and an airy moist root ball

Use clean rainwater or suitable low-mineral water such as reverse-osmosis water. Hard tap water and water from an ordinary salt softener are unsuitable. The root ball remains moist and must not dry completely like a succulent. A small controlled reserve may help if it stays cool and clean. Check regularly and replace stale warm water. At the same time, compost should remain airy; the rhizome need not stand deep underwater. Low-nutrient acidic carnivore mixes with suitable loose ingredients are sensible; ordinary pre-fertilised potting compost is not.

No meat feeding and a real winter rest

The plant catches suitable small prey itself. Meat pieces, cheese or fertiliser added to traps do not belong to care. Ordinary houseplant fertiliser is not added to compost either. Cobra lily needs a cooler winter rest. For the small pot, a bright cool frost-protected position is more reliable than a general winter-hardiness guarantee. Reduce the water reserve then without allowing the root ball to dry. A warm living room without suitable rest or controllable root temperatures is difficult long-term.

Patiently support rhizome and new traps

Underground runners may later form new rosettes. A suitable new container may therefore offer some room sideways when needed. Repot and divide only strong plants gently, avoiding unnecessary root disturbance. A young plant first needs to establish roots. If traps suddenly wilt or brown, check water quality, heat and root condition instead of automatically flooding more. Watch fresh growth for pests too. Cobra lily suits careful observers; it is not a carefree replacement for an arbitrary green plant.

Pictures and details

Images and descriptions from this portrait. Decorative items are not included in the offer.



Original shop image: cobra lily. 9 cm pot · delivery height not stated. Natural variations are possible.



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Good to know

Can cobra lily stand on any sunny windowsill?

A windowsill that heats up is problematic. A bright airy position and cool roots matter.

Must I feed insects or meat?

No. The plant catches suitable small prey itself; meat pieces and fertiliser do not belong in traps.

How tall is the delivered plant?

The shop states a 9 cm pot but no specific delivery height. Original images show a young plant.

Is cobra lily certainly winter-hardy?

A blanket guarantee is unsuitable for the small pot. Overwinter bright, cool and frost-protected, keeping the root ball moist.

The matching offer

[View plant in the shop](#)

Check the shop for the price, current availability and what is included.

[Read the complete portrait in English](#)



English portrait



Shop offer