

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Utricularia livida: delicate flowers above a hidden trapping system

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AI-created scene based on the original shop image. Size reference: 9 cm pot; flowering example, delivery height and flowering condition not guaranteed. Decoration is not included; this is 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

Utricularia livida

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Botanical classification	<i>Utricularia livida</i>
Family	Lentibulariaceae
Origin	From parts of Africa to South Africa, also Madagascar and Mexico
Delivery size	9 cm pot · delivery height not stated
Growth and special feature	Small terrestrial bladderwort with a green surface carpet, underground runners and fine flower stems above the clump

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; introduce stronger sun slowly.	Good brightness supports flowers and dense growth.
Water	Use only clean low-mineral water.	Salts are unsuited to the low-nutrient habitat.
Water tray	Keep a little water in a shallow dish during growth.	The fine clump must not dry out.
Winter	Less reserve in cooler conditions, still moist.	Reduced consumption calls for adapted amounts.
Frost	Keep the small potted plant frost-free.	Brief cold tolerance is no winter guarantee.
Growing medium	Use suitable unfertilised carnivorous-plant mix.	Ordinary potting compost generally contains too many nutrients.
Propagation	Gently move healthy connected pieces.	Fine runners need contact and moisture.
Feed	Do not supply ordinary plant fertiliser.	Specialised cultivation needs no heavy salt additions.

Knowledge that grows

The striking flowers are not the traps

Small white to pale-violet flowers stand on thin stems above the green clump. Their delicate form may recall miniature flowers of other ornamentals, but *Utricularia livida* belongs to the Lentibulariaceae. Trap bladders sit on underground organs and catch tiny organisms in the wet habitat. Speaking of ordinary roots with attached traps would be botanically misleading. *Utricularia* has an unusual plant body with runners and specialised organs. Flowers serve reproduction rather than insect capture.

A small pot with a growing carpet

The shop states a 9 cm pot but no fixed delivery height or guaranteed flowering condition. Our scene shows a flowering example in this pot size. Without flowers the plant appears much lower. The green clump may gradually spread across the surface. Place it so small flowers can be viewed closely. In a shared carnivorous-plant bowl it may grow into neighbouring areas. A separate pot is clearer for a distinctly separated collection.

Bright light and a frost-free position

A bright position with good daylight supply promotes healthy growth and flowers. Introduce stronger sun slowly and avoid overheating behind glass. Cultivation can continue year-round indoors or in a frost-free greenhouse. A warm bright growth period helps; enforced cold winter dormancy is not needed. Consumption falls in cooler lower-light winter conditions. Even if some clumps tolerate brief cold, the small delivered root ball is not treated as a reliably frost-hardy outdoor plant.

Shallow water supports the moist habitat

During growth, place the pot in a shallow dish with a little water. The bottom may stand in water, but the surface need not stay deeply flooded. Use clean rainwater, suitable reverse-osmosis water or distilled water without additives. An ordinary table filter does not reliably remove dissolved mineral salts. Check water levels regularly so the fine clump never dries completely. In cool winter cultivation, reduce the reserve while keeping the medium moist. Keep dish and surroundings clean without introducing cleaning products into the plant area.

Low-nutrient medium rather than ordinary compost

A suitable unfertilised carnivorous-plant mix is the right foundation. Ordinary pre-fertilised potting compost and fertiliser sticks are unsuitable. Tiny traps supply themselves within the moist microhabitat; they need no manually inserted meat pieces or large insects. Small connected pieces from a densely grown healthy clump can be gently placed into fresh suitable medium. Do not fully expose fine underground runners or let them dry. A newly received plant can first establish before being distributed among several containers.

Observe small changes attentively

A healthy clump may continue growing without many flowers. Flower number and timing depend on light, temperature and individual cultivation. Carefully remove spent flower stems without pulling out the green carpet. If moss or algae heavily cover the plant, check water quality, nutrient input and light, gently limiting obstructive areas. Despite its name, this offered bladderwort is a terrestrial cultivated plant and should not simply be thrown free-floating into an aquarium. Its appeal combines delicate flowers with a hidden highly specialised trapping system.

Pictures and details

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



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



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Good to know

Where are the traps hidden?

Tiny trapping bladders sit on underground organs in moist medium. Visible flowers are not traps.

Is *Utricularia livida* a floating aquatic plant?

This offer is a terrestrial bladderwort. It grows in moist medium, not floating freely in an aquarium.

Must I feed the plant?

Feeding meat or large insects makes no sense. Tiny traps use their moist microhabitat.

Is it always delivered with many flowers?

A fixed flowering condition is not guaranteed. The image shows a flowering example; without flowers a low green clump remains.

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