

DROSERA REGIA

by Bob Ziemer, P.O. Box 4562, Arcata, CA 95521.

When I first received my plant of *Drosera regia* from a friend, it was a small specimen and I grew the plant in a 4-inch pot under grow-lux bulbs in my house. During the first summer, it grew reasonably well but put out only a maximum of 3-inch leaves. Last fall a large amount of salt (probably 10 grams) fell from a skunk skin I was curing into the pot of *D. regia*. By the time I observed this disaster, the plant had completely wilted and the leaves turned black. I leached the plant and sphagnum for 3 days in fresh water. Within two weeks, there was a new leaf emerging but it only was 1-inch long. Later, the plant went dormant and the leaves were only 1/4-inch long with no tentacles. I did not realize that these plants had a dormant phase but it lasted from November to February. In mid-February, larger tentacled leaves began to appear. I then transferred the plant to a 10-inch plastic pot filled with live sphagnum moss. The plant is now growing and routinely putting out 16 inch (40 cm long) leaves.

I have been spraying and watering the pot about every 2 weeks with 1/10 strength Hoaglands solution (a complete fertilizer) and occasionally spraying the leaves with fish emulsion. About 1/8 of the leaf surface of each leaf is covered with spiders, mosquitoes, and flies which have been trapped naturally.

The plant is growing in an unshaded greenhouse which is surrounded by red wood trees and at this time of year (May) receives about 3 hours of direct sunlight. However, many of our days are overcast and the light intensity is often low. Lighting is supplemented with Vita-gro fluorescent lamps on a 12-hour photoperiod. The greenhouse heater is set to go on at 45°F (70°C) and the vent fans go on at 85°F (29°C). Thus the plant receives cool nights and warm days. The night temperature at this time of year will be about 50°F (10°C). Apparently, *D. regia* enjoys these conditions because it grows vigorous and healthy.

(Plates C & D).



D. regia. Plate C.
Photo by Jim Miller



D. regia. Plate D.
Photo by Jim Miller