

Deadliest Plants and Bugs



Fact sheet: Venus flytrap

The Venus fly trap is a plant predator that traps and eats insects, including flies, spiders, ants, crickets, grasshoppers and beetles.



Venus flytrap scores decoded:

| | |
|--|---|
| | 4 |
| | 4 |
| | 8 |
| | 6 |
| | 6 |
| | 8 |

Size: 4

The average fly trap plant grows to around 13 centimetres in diameter – around the size of a can of pop.



Colour / Camouflage: 4

Green, brown and red. When Venus flytraps flower, their white flowers grow on long stems. This helps the pollinating insects to gather pollen from the flowers without falling into their traps below.



Life Span: 8

Up to 20 years. The trap on the plant can only open and close around 6 times before it permanently closes but the plant will live on.



Armour / Defence: 8

The leaves are hinged like a mouth and the edges are lined with “teeth”. The leaves fit together like a clamshell. When the leaves snap shut they form a trap.



Poison level: 6

After the trap has shut the leaf produces enzymes (juices) to break down the prey and help digest it. A bit like our stomachs do when we have eaten food. This process takes about 10 days and then the trap re-opens.



Strength: 6

The trap of the Venus flytrap closes shut in about 1/10th of a second after its been triggered. Once the prey is caught it is very unlikely to escape. Each trap can eat one third of its size per meal. Do you think you could eat a meal that size?



More amazing Venus flytrap facts:

The Venus flytrap attracts its prey by luring it into its trap by its attractive red colour and fruity smell. When an insect crawls between the two halves of a leaf, hairs detect it and the leaf snaps shut and the long spikes lock together. They cannot digest exoskeletons so, when the trap re-opens, it spits out the bones of its victim.



The hairs of the Venus flytrap have evolved to prevent false closing from things like raindrops and wind.