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The following table highlights the growth patterns for varieties of North American pitcher plants grown and sold at Succulent Flytraps nursery. The following information will help you identify when the biggest pitchers are produced (peak time) for different varieties of North American pitcher plants. By growing North American pitcher plants that peak at various times you can then achieve an *extended* pitcher display.

What Is The Peak Growing Time?

For the Southern Hemisphere the growing season is defined as the period from September till May or non-winter period. The peak period is when the largest and tallest pitchers are produced. This is indicated by 'X' in the table. The non-peak period is when smaller pitchers and non-carnivorous leaves (phylodia) are produced. Smaller pitcher production is indicated by 'x' phylodia are indicated by 'P'.



**Sarracenia flava var.
rubricorpora pitcher**



**Phylodia (non-
carnivorous leaves)**



**Sarracenia flava var.
Tarnok pitcher**

How to read the 'Sarracenia Growth Pattern' table

As well as indicating the peak growing times there is also pitcher size and height information. This is the approximate size and length of pitchers you would expect **during the peak growing times** for various types of North American pitcher plants. Let's have a look at some examples.....

Sarracenia flava var. rubricorpora - The table indicates that this plant peaks in spring (as do all *Sarracenia flava* species). The spring peak is indicated by 'X' when the largest pitchers are produced at up to 4cm across in spring. Around December smaller pitchers up to 3cm across and phylodia will make an appearance (indicated by xP). This growth pattern continues until late summer and early autumn. As the growing season progresses only phylodia will be produced (indicated by P).

Sarracenia flava f. red tube x alata f. red throat – this plant peaks briefly in the spring with pitchers up to 4cm across. However, it's not until the height of summer in January and February where there is vigorous growth of pitchers. During this time pitchers can get up to 65 cm high and get up to 4cm across. In November and December there is a brief appearance of phylodia together with pitchers. The various peak growing times reflects that this plant is a cross (hybrid) between two species.

Sarracenia leucophylla var. Tarnok – the growth table indicates that this plant variety is an autumn (fall) peaking plant. Pitchers are produced in spring but they are quite spindly. However, it's not until Autumn that the biggest and tallest pitchers are produced getting up to 65cm high and 2.5 cm across.

Sarracenia flava leucophylla f. red veins – in September and October pitchers up to 3 - 3.5cm across are produced. During the summer months phylodoia and smaller pitchers are produced than those in spring. However it's not until late summer / autumn when this plant peaks producing pitchers up to 65cm tall and 4cm or more across.

Please note: this information is a guide only. The information has been derived from my own plant growth observations in my local area. Variations in growth patterns may vary slightly depending on your local climate and growing conditions of your plant. Other cultivars or varieties of North American pitcher plants will produce their own growth patterns and will vary slightly from the following 'Growth Patterns' table.

Sarracenia Growth Pattern Table

North American Pitcher Plant	Ht.	Wt.	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Sarracenia flava var. rubricorpora	65cm	4cm	xP	xP	xP	P	P				X	X	X	xP
Sarracenia flava f. red tube x alata f. red throat	65cm	4cm	X	X	x	x	x				X	X	xP	xP
Sarracenia leucophylla var. tarnok *	60cm	3cm	x	X	X	X	X				x	x	x	x
Sarracenia flava var. cuprea	65cm	5cm	xP	xP	xP	P	P				X	X	X	xP
Sarracenia flava var. maxima	50cm	4cm	xP	xP	xP	P	P				X	X	X	xP
Sarracenia flava leucophylla f. red veins	65cm	4cm	xP	X	X	X	X				x	x	xP	xP

* Note: humidity levels will determine whether phylodia are produced or not. In my observations pitcher production will continue throughout the season if humidity levels are high.

How To Use This Information

Looking at the table Sarracenia flava species make a bold presence in spring. Since Sarracenia flava peak in spring they are the perfect addition just after winter dormancy with their large tall pitchers. To see an extended pitcher display it would be wise to grow Sarracenia leucophylla which peak later in the season in autumn. During autumn flava species are well and truly past their peak with more phylodia being produced. To see pitchers peak in between autumn and spring the hybrid Sarracenia flava f. red tube x alata f. red throat is the perfect choice. The reason is because when looking at the table you can see that this hybrid peaks in the height of summer. Hope this information helps and you can apply your knowledge to other Sarracenia varieties. If you have any questions please contact me through my website or Facebook page. Happy growing to you all!