

SHUT YOUR TRAP

Instructions for removing your plants from tissue culture

The removal of your plant from tissue culture requires a process of acclimatisation before it is ready to be treated as you would a normal plant.

Step 1: Removal from flask

If you are ready to remove your plant from tissue culture open up the flask and remove the plant with a pair of tweezers.

Step 2: Washing

After removing your plant from the flask place into a bowl of tepid water or rinse under the tap with tepid water until all remaining traces of the gel from the flask have been removed. I even let the plant sit in a bowl of water for a few hours before moving on to the next step.

Step 3: Potting

Make up a pot of soil that you would use for your carnivorous plant. I use a 1:1 mix of peat moss and washed sand. You can also use a peat moss/perlite mix. Make sure the soil is quite moist and uniform.

Next is to poke a small hole in the soil with your finger deep enough to accommodate the length of the roots then simply place the plant into the hole and gently squeeze the soil around the roots with your fingers so your plant is sitting in the soil nicely.

Step 4: Fungicide

As your plant has not come into contact with any pests or diseases before and has been growing in a sterile environment it is very susceptible to attack from fungus etc.

To prevent this from causing any issue with your plant I recommend to treat your freshly potted plant with a fungicide as soon as it has been potted up and every few days afterwards until it has completed its acclimatisation period.

I use EcoFungicide which can be purchased readily from Bunnings. I spray the plant liberally with the fungicide then move on to the next step.

Step 5: Acclimatisation

As your plant has been growing in a completely contained flask it has been growing in a 100% humid environment and so it needs to be acclimatised to growing at lower humidity levels. This is roughly a 4-6 week process...

For the first week cover the top of your plant pot completely with a large snap lock bag, a soft drink bottle or you can purchase a mini greenhouse container (from Bunnings \$10 approx). Have the pot sitting in a tray/saucer of water approximately 1-2cm deep for the entire acclimatisation period.

After the first week you can start opening up the bag covering the pot by snipping off a small corner or with the mini greenhouse you can slide the vents slightly open.

Weeks 3 and 4 you will just be opening up the vent holes more and more until at the end of the fourth week you can remove the cover altogether.

For this process I would recommend having your plant on a windowsill that only receives morning sunshine. Remember to keep spraying with fungicide every few days or at the first sign of fungus forming.

After you have completely removed the humidity cover from the plant you can now treat it as you would a normal plant. If you plan on growing the plant out in full sun etc. you should spend a couple of weeks acclimating the plant to full sun by slowly moving it to locations where it receives more and more sunlight.

