

# RARE & ENDANGERED PLANT HIGHLIGHT

## PITCHER PLANTS

Take a look and notice that the flowers of pitcher plants or *Sarracenia* are quite different from the foliage. In early spring flowers emerge and later the new “pitchers” emerge. These are actually modified leaves that trap insects. Insects are attracted into the pitchers and are unable to exit due to a combination of slippery surfaces and tiny downward-pointing hairs that line the inside.

*Sarracenia* are found in damp nutrient poor soils throughout the southeast and gulf coast through the great lakes region into Canada. Threats to these plants include habitat loss, fire suppression, agriculture, development, and over-collection. *Sarracenia* are protected by the Endangered Species Act, CITES, and through inclusion on the IUCN Red List.

