

plants from the highlands like the wavy-leaf form which I have found require cool to warm, but not hot, days in combination with cool to cold nights to remain vigorous. Selective breeding can probably produce plants that are even smaller. Good luck.

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—DAVID P. EVANS • New Jersey • USA • [dpevans@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:dpevans@rci.rutgers.edu)

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## PINGUICULA PLANIFOLIA SUBMERSION TECHNIQUE

BRIAN BARNES • 991 Citruswood Ct. • Longwood, FL 32750 • USA • [brian@carnivorousplants.org](mailto:brian@carnivorousplants.org)

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Due to the many emails I've received for more information on my *Pinguicula planifolia* submersion technique, I figured here's a wonderful place to share it!

First, NEVER do this technique in the summer or in very hot weather exceeding 35°C (95°F), you might lose your plants to rot. Cool, fall weather is the best time to begin and experiment with your growing conditions. I prefer to grow my *Pinguicula planifolia* in a mix of 3/4 sand to 1/4 peat, as it mimics the conditions in the wild, and I've seen them many times in this type of soil. Slowly fill the container to submerge them completely and leave only the tips of the crown leaves above water. Try not to pour quickly, as this will cover the leaves in peat/sediment. Round Tupperware containers with no drainage of course work best.

Believe it or not, you want STRONG sun while submerged; that's why cooler temps are crucial. Let the container sit submerged for three weeks. During this time I experience a "growth explosion" with my *Pinguicula planifolia*. I theorize that the plant produces larger leaves to make up for lack of UV sunlight during submersion. During the fourth week, slowly allow the soil to become very wet to the touch and then only moist. Now, here's where you'll "color" your plant by exposing the new jumbo leaves to strong sun to achieve that lovely red hue!

Keep your plants in this moist-only condition for one month, then submerge again. Remember to discontinue treatment when constantly hot weather returns.

Currently, I'm using this technique for *Pinguicula lutea* and *Pinguicula caerulea* as well. So far, they've been completely submerged for five weeks without any apparent harm and are beginning to flower. I'll keep everyone posted on my success with these two species.

This method will allow you to grow huge "cabbage-head-sized" *Pinguicula planifolia*, and you'll be amazed at how it affects flowering, with numerous spikes in spring!

Using this technique, I have successfully maintained in cultivation the same adult plants for over three years. Many have divided and now have multiple crowns, a phenomenon rarely seen with this species. I'll be constantly updating everyone on my success and donating some seed from my "giants" to the ICPS seed bank in spring. Best of luck, and enjoy these gorgeous red gems!