

NEW CULTIVARS

Keywords: cultivar: *Drosera* 'Ambrosia', *Drosera* 'Dreamsicle', *Drosera* 'Woolly Beast', *Drosera* 'Woolly Red'

Drosera 'Ambrosia' and 'Dreamsicle'

Submitted: 13 September 2010

In 2007, I received four plants from Barry Rice labeled as *Drosera tracyi* "white flower" and grew them for almost two years in full Florida sun. I was pleased to find that the plants showed no signs of color whatsoever including the glands, flowers, and tentacles which proved them to be completely anthocyanin free. The plants also produced true from seed. Realizing the vast hybrid potential of the plant, I decided to cross them with one of several Florida all-red forms of *D. filiformis* var. *filiformis* plants that I had existing in my collection from seed harvested during a prior scientific research expedition. Upon germination, the seedlings immediately expressed hybrid vigor with many of the plants taking on the larger, more robust size and paler yellowish leaf color of the anthocyanin-free *D. filiformis* var. *tracyi* parent. Traits of both parents were clearly seen throughout the resulting seedling colony in varying degrees. I selected two plants that clearly showed the traits of both parents (see Figure 1).



Figure 1: For comparison (from left to right) Florida all-red form of *Drosera filiformis* var. *filiformis*, *D.* 'Dreamsicle', *D.* 'Ambrosia', and anthocyanin-free form of *D. filiformis* var. *tracyi*. Photo by Brian Barnes.



Figure 2: The green leaves and red glands of *Drosera* 'Ambrosia'.



Figure 3: The fiery glow of *Drosera* 'Dreamsicle'.

Drosera 'Ambrosia' = (anthocyanin-free *D. filiformis* var. *tracyi* × Florida all-red form of *D. filiformis* var. *filiformis*) retains many traits of the anthocyanin-free *D. filiformis* var. *tracyi* parent including pale yellow leaves and colorless tentacles, but has the dark red glands of the Florida all-red form of *D. filiformis* var. *filiformis* (See Figure 2). This tends to make the plant appear similar to *Drosophyllum* in many ways. This varies greatly from the description of *D. 'California Sunset'*, in which the tentacles and glands are "light red to deep pink in color".

Drosera 'Dreamsicle' = (Florida all-red form of *D. filiformis* var. *filiformis* × anthocyanin-free *D. filiformis* var. *tracyi*) exhibits the pale-yellowish leaf color of the anthocyanin-free *D. filiformis* var. *tracyi* parent combined with the coloration of the other *D. filiformis* var. *filiformis* parent. However, the leaves, tentacles and glands take on a fiery-orange coloration, giving the overall plant an eerie orange glow (see Figure 3). Once again, this varies greatly from the "light red to deep pink in color" description of the glands and tentacle coloration of *D. 'California Sunset'*. Both forms exhibit very large showy flowers much like *D. filiformis* var. *tracyi* and are infused with the lightest shade of pink (see Figure 4), which I attribute to the white-flowered anthocyanin-free *D. filiformis* var. *tracyi* parent.

A naturally occurring hybrid between the Florida all-red form of *D. filiformis* var. *filiformis* × *D. filiformis* var. *tracyi* exists in the wild in north Florida and was documented by Prof. Barry Rice and myself in 2009 and shows traits relevant to these man-made hybrid crosses.

D. 'Dreamsicle' was named after the fiery-orange tentacles and glands that stand out



Figure 4: The large pink showy flowers of the cultivars.

strongly against the pale yellowish leaves which reminded me of a glowing orange popsicle or “creamsicle” as it is called. *D. ‘Ambrosia’* was named after the sweet nectar drink of the gods in Greek mythology. The dark red nectar laden glands of the plant reminded me of such a divine drink! To maintain the desired character traits of these cultivars, vegetative propagation by leaf cuttings and division only.

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The *Drosera* Brian Barnes Group

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In early 2007, I received a *Drosera kenneallyi* and *D. lanata* plant which were both purchased as adult plants from Hert’s Gardens, a respected nursery in Lakeland, Florida. Both plants flowered at the same time later that year at which time I successfully made the hybrid cross: *D. kenneallyi* × *D. lanata*. All of the resulting seedlings immediately showed hybrid vigor, along with the combined traits of the parents in various degrees of intensity. A greener hirsute form that favored the green *D. lanata* parent (*D. ‘Woolly Beast’*) and an all-red hirsute form which greatly favored the *D. kenneal-*



Figure 5: Parents and hybrid flowers for comparison (left to right): *Drosera kenneallyi*, *D. lanata*, and *D. ‘Woolly Beast’*.



Figure 6: Note the hirsute petioles and widened laminae of *Drosera ‘Woolly Beast’* (left) and the blood-red coloration and hirsute characteristics of *D. ‘Woolly Red’* (right).

lyi parent, (*D.* 'Woolly Red') was chosen from the vast number of resulting hybrid seedlings (see Figures 5 and 6). All resulting hybrid plants also experience dormancy, much like the two parents. However, dormancy can be avoided if proper year-round growing conditions are met in cultivation.

Since both hybrid cultivars and their siblings possess the wide petioles and laminae of *D. kenneallyi* along with the hirsute characteristics of *D. lanata* in varying degrees, the name *Drosera* Brian Barnes Group is therefore applied to all *D. petiolaris*-complex plants that exhibit this very unusual combination of very distinctive unquestionable hybrid traits. The atypical varying hirsute *D. lanata* characteristics of the hybrids are exhibited at various times during the year, however the wide *D. kenneallyi* leaf blade characteristics that are not atypical to *D. lanata* are consistent year-round in both *D.* 'Woolly Beast' and *D.* 'Woolly Red' and other resulting *D. kenneallyi* × *lanata* hybrids in the *Drosera* Brian Barnes Group.

The *Drosera* Brian Barnes Group was named after the author of this publication, who created the above mentioned hybrid cultivars and their siblings. The names *D.* 'Woolly Beast' and *D.* 'Woolly Red' were concluded by combining visible attributes of the plants involved in the hybrid parentage of the two cultivars and their resulting offspring, whose parents are *Drosera kenneallyi* and *Drosera lanata*. To maintain the desired character traits of these cultivars, vegetative propagation by leaf cuttings and division only.

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