

AN INTERVIEW WITH MARGARET CHO

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Margaret Cho – is familiar with the International Carnivorous Plant Society! She is a Grammy and Emmy Award nominated stand-up comedian, actress, and singer-songwriter, who started her carnivorous plant journey in February 2022. I had a Zoom conversation to learn more.

“The book *Savage Garden* is really incredible, it’s a classic and has helped me get a lot of confidence,” Cho told me.

While she doesn’t grow anything inside her California home, due to her hungry hairless cats, she is excelling in her outside bog. The bog consists of several cultivars of Venus flytraps including B52, *Drosera capensis*, and several *Sarracenia*. She tried *Nepenthes* but mistakenly put them in the bog and full sun.

“All of the stuff in the bogs are so maintenance free. You don’t do anything,” Cho told me. “They are the most carefree plants because they are always sitting in the distilled water. And I just top off the water by an inch or so and there is nothing to it. It’s really incredible.”

Although she just started, one of her wish list items to add to her collection is a Cobra lily (*Darlingtonia californica*). She would also love to go to Southeast Asia, specifically Borneo, and see some of the larger pitcher plants on a hike.

I asked her what her impetus was in starting to grow carnivorous plants.

“I think they are so beautiful. I remember being a little kid and seeing them on television and seeing people feeding pieces of hamburger to Venus flytraps. Or I would see the plants in death cubes at variety stores and they are so beautiful.”

Doing some image searches online and seeing the vast number of cultivars this past winter pushed her to start growing her own.

“I don’t need to hand feed them. Every time I go out there the B52s always have exoskeletons, so I don’t have to do anything. I have 28 bird feeders, so the birds just pick off the exoskeletons. The *Drosera capensis* really likes to eat. She always has something wiggling in that dew. It is pretty incredible. She has a big appetite. I can’t really see what’s inside the *Sarracenia*, but I am sure they are eating since they are growing really well.”

While the comedian is covered in tattoos, she currently doesn’t have any of carnivorous plants.

“Although it is a good idea! I love the monkey cups and the Venus flytraps are so beautiful – they look like big eyes.”

