

BUTTERWORTS

CARE GUIDE

Butterworts are found in most parts of the world, and whilst they all look generally similar, they like different conditions. These instructions are for the most commonly available plants.

MEXICAN BUTTERWORTS EG P. X WESER, P. ESSERIANA, P. 'TINA'

These make excellent houseplants and have very showy flowers. They do not like full sun, so they are ideal for north and east-facing windowsills.

Watering

Stand in a shallow tray or saucer of water during spring and summer. These are some of the few carnivorous plants that tolerate lime, so tap water can be used. Water the saucer, not the plant.

Winter Care

During the autumn, the outside leaves will die off and go papery. The central rosette will get smaller and tighter. They have very little



root (if any) in this state. The watering can be reduced, and they can be kept much drier. If kept warm and damp, they may keep growing, but they can have a tendency to rot. In early spring, the first sign of growth will be hair-like, white roots that may be seen around the base of the rosette. When these appear, watering can be carefully restarted but do not get water on the crown. Allow the water to draw up from the saucer.

Growing on

The crowns of Mexican Butterworts will divide over time, and new rosettes will form around the edge. These can be carefully separated and potted up in early spring when the plant does not have many roots. Plant in a Supersphag/perlite mix or 3:1 peat:sand

THE EUROPEAN BUTTERWORTS E.G. P. GRANDIFLORA

Hardy butterworts are best grown outside or in a cold frame or cold greenhouse. Again, keep out of the full sun. Grow in water trays in 1-2 cm water. They make a lovely display grown in a shallow bowl. In winter, this species dies back to a winter resting bud with small buds growing around it. These are quite small but can be propagated. Just press into a pot of 3:1 peat:sand mixed with a little John Innes No 1.