***Do Plants Have Teeth?***

*There are many different kinds of carnivorous plants around the world, but only a few have teeth-like chompers. While carnivorous plant "teeth" aren't sharp or hard like human teeth, they are actually sensitive triggers that activate the trapping motion as soon as prey is near enough to trap. These plants get most of their nutrients from their insect and rodent visitors, since they typically inhabit moist areas where the soil does not contain much nutrients.*

The Venus Flytrap

* + The Venus flytrap is one of the most well-known of all carnivorous plants, thanks to many cartoons. The Venus flytrap is indigenous to the Carolina states but also is grown in many greenhouses across the United States due to their popularity. You may even be able to find tiny baby flytraps at your local [home improvementhttp://images.intellitxt.com/ast/adTypes/icon1.png](http://www.ehow.com/list_6589076_carnivorous-plants-teeth.html) gardening section. This carnivore uses its "teeth" and small hair-like fibers as motions detectors. Once the hairs are activated, the plant snaps down upon its prey and uses its digestive juices to break it down into the nutrients that it needs to survive.

Albany Pitcher Plant

* + The Albany pitcher plant has a similar look to the Venus flytrap, but it doesn't snap shut like the flytrap. Instead, it catches its prey by using a sweet liquid that floats on the bottom of it's "mouth," called a pitcher. The insects are drawn in to drink and cannot escape once inside due to its slick walls. The liquid then breaks down the bugs into nutrients for the plant. Again, this plant's "teeth" are used to signal the plant that a bug has approached, which will initiate the liquid's natural chemicals to begin digesting the insect.

Sundew Plant

* + The sundew plant is a carnivorous plant that works similarly to the Venus flytrap, although it looks completely different. This plant doesn't necessarily have a "mouth," but it seems to think it does. The sundew is a long, slender plant with "teeth" all over its body that detect any creatures. It's named the sundew plant because the sticky "saliva" at the end of its teeth-like tentacles mimics sweet morning dew, which draws in prey. Once the "teeth" have sensed prey, the plant "chomps" down onto the prey by folding over its leaves. Then, the digestive liquid on the end of the teeth get to work.