

TRAPPED IN WILMINGTON



Venus Flytraps

Venus Flytraps also known as *dionaea muscipula* in the entire world, Venus flytraps only grow in the 75-100 mile area around Wilmington. The exotic plant trade and habitat destruction has brought their wild population from over 5 million down to an estimated 35,000 venus flytraps.

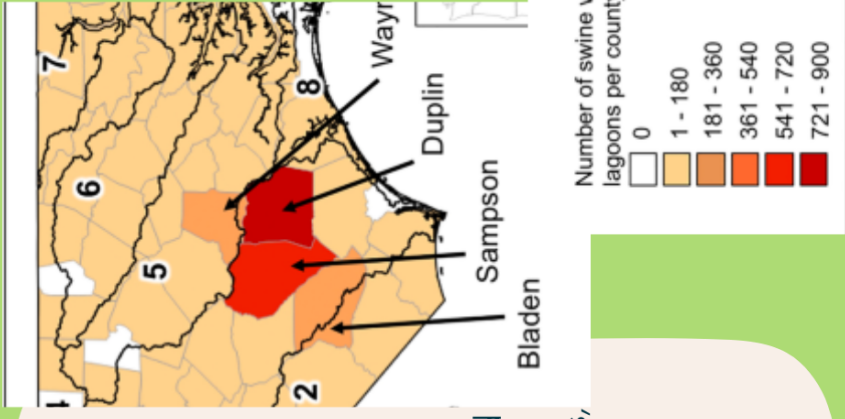
Venus flytraps evolved their leaves into traps lined with sensitive hairs called trichomes. When a live bug crawls over these trichomes, it triggers the traps to close. When a bug moves more in the trap, it signals the plant to digest it faster and extract nutrients. Venus flytraps have flowers much taller than their traps so that they don't eat their pollinators.

When there are too many nutrients in the water or soil venus flytraps live in, they will stop producing traps.



Flytraps and Climate Change

Climate trends show that Wilmington will receive increased levels on rainfall in the following years. Because of the CAFOs and farmland in the Cape Fear watershed that produce a lot of nitrogen and phosphorous, the stormwater runoff will contain nutrients that prevent Venus flytraps from producing traps



What we can do to help

Converting farmland to longleaf pine savanna provides habitat for Venus flytraps and prevents nitrogen and phosphorus runoff. Planting wildflowers support insects and absorbs excessive nutrients.