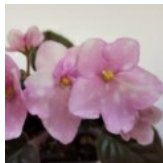


VioletsFun

Violet Barn newsletter

December 2023 - # 118

(Some of) What's New



Hunter's Dew Drops. Sdbl. pink pansies with lots of white puff fantasy. Round, dark, red-backed foliage. A larger growing semimini. Very unusual bloom, good bloomer, fairly stable.

Hunter's Bella. Semidouble white pansies with dark fuchsia thumbprints, often more fuchsia than white. Small, dark, miniature foliage. Very ready and profuse bloomer, easy grower.

Check the website for all of the newest varieties.

News and updates:



Wicking pots are back!

We again have a full selection and ample supply of both the **small** (for miniatures) and **large** (for standards) wicking pots. Both available in four colors. The miniature pots include a 2.25" white pot, the large a 4" white pot. If using these, be sure to use with a very porous soil containing at least 50% perlite for best results.

Inventory updates.

Our inventory of standard African violets was just updated. You will notice a significant change, as MANY varieties that were not listed for some time are now available.

Ordering for the holidays.

For arrival before Christmas, orders MUST be received no later than 12 noon on Friday, December 15. Safe and timely delivery only guaranteed by Express mail, when signed for upon delivery! We will do our best to select blooming plants, but cannot promise this for all varieties.

Gift certificates.

Missed the deadline above or just don't know which plants to send? Send a gift certificate. If you request delivery by email, these can be ordered as late as December 24 for arrival by Christmas.

Winter shipping now in effect.

We continue to ship through winter! However, from now through end of March, we can only guarantee safe arrival when Express mail is chosen. We will ship via priority mail (less expensive) but this is done at customer's risk.

My plant looks like this:



Received this photo with the question, "I bought this (Pixie Runaround Sport) when it was little. It bloomed, now it doesn't at all. This is what it looks like now. What am I doing wrong?"

It is a bit overpotted, but there's nothing terribly wrong with the care, as it otherwise looks green and healthy. This is a trailing variety, so it is normal for it to be branched like this. The stems do appear a bit loose and above the soil--guessing that they aren't very stiff and might "flop around" a bit. This can be improved by potting them a bit lower, and firmer, in the soil. If plants aren't anchored in the soil, they will tend not to develop as strongly.

Being a trailer, you can encourage even more branching, and fuller growth (so it doesn't look so sparse) by pinching out the tips of new growth of the branches. Insufficient light would cause the lack of flowers as well as the leaves reaching upwards as they are. If grown in a window, they might simply be a function of the season. If under artificial lights, try extending hours or moving the plant a bit closer to the bulb(s).

This month's question

I purchased your soil and didn't realize I needed to water it before using it. Guess it helps if I had read the info you your website! Would you please explain how to add the water--1 part water to 4 parts soil? Then what?

Though you can (and many do) use soil when it's dry, we find it is much easier to use when it is not so dry. Dry potting mix tends to be messy and difficult to use. It also will be difficult to water your (re)potted plant, often with water just running through the mix and out the bottom of the pot.

Ideally, the potting mix should be moist enough to hold a shape--make a "ball" of it in your hand. If you can squeeze water out of the ball, or it won't break apart if dropped a short distance into your soil bucket, then it's too wet. You want moist, not muddy. It will be able to easily "mold" in the pot--say, making a hole in the middle for a plant to go into, that will keep its shape and not fall in on itself.

In our experience, adding 1 part water for 4 parts dry potting mix works best. Do this the day before you need to use it, letting it sit overnite. It should be damp, not soggy, for you to use the next day.

Calendar

December 15, 2023.

12 noon deadline for orders to arrive before December 25, by Express mail.

March 2024.

Next international shipping. Sorry, due to weather and the holidays, we are not shipping internationally during winter months. We will resume next spring.

Contact us

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Phone: 585-374-8592 (M-S 12-5 ET)

Sorry, we're currently closed to visitors

Notes



Follow us on facebook!

We want you to succeed!

Plant not growing well? Don't wait until it's too late. Send us a photo and an outline of care and environment. You are not alone--perhaps we can help.

Having success?

Let us know and share your story.

Write a review to get a free plant

Write a review on the product pages of our website before ordering. Get a free plant added to your order.

Place a pickup order!

For those in the area, we offer pickup service. Save on shipping and we'll have your plants waiting for you.

[More info...](#)

Are you a member?

African Violet Society of America

Sign up through our website and get a free plant added to order! More info: avsa.org

Gesneriad Society

Has your collection grown far beyond violets? Consider joining the Gesneriad Society. More info: gesneriad_society.org

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