

VioletsFun

Violet Barn newsletter

January 2024 - # 119

(Some of) What's New



Hunter's Dinky Doo. Sdbl. to double white blooms with blush pink overtones. Nice medium green, pointed, miniature foliage. Excellent grower and bloomer.

K's Shenanigans. Standard violet with semidouble pink pansies with darker eye, purple fantasy spotting. Medium green,

quilted, serrated, foliage. Grows easily, shapes well, and blooms readily.

Check the website for all of the newest varieties.

News and updates:

Inventory updates.

Though we cannot promise all plants are shipped in bloom, availability of blooming plants is greater in winter, as shipping volumes are less and plants stay with us longer. Plants also love our growing conditions fall through spring!

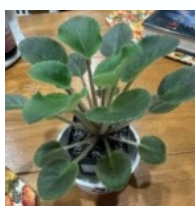
Wholesale and large orders.

Our inventory for African violets has finally returned to near normal and we are again able to offer wholesale pricing. [Details appear on the website.](#)

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:



This photo was sent to us recently with the message: "Here's a pic of 'Aca's Inquisitive George' that I purchased from you in July. It's happy and doing well as far as growth. I just wondered if it should be blooming or if I should repot."

It does look healthy and to have grown. This variety is typically a good bloomer and should have bloomed in by this time. It's also a variety whose foliage typically grows much flatter and more compactly, making it a good choice for either a "house" plant or for exhibition as it both shapes and blooms well. Though very healthy, this plant is doing neither.

Leaves growing loosely and upright are an indication that it needs stronger light, especially since it has not bloomed by now. If grown in natural light, this might be something you'll have to tolerate until days get longer and brighter. African violets don't go dormant--they don't choose to stop blooming, but won't bloom if the conditions don't allow it. If possible, you can supplement with artificial light or, if using artificial light already, increase its brightness and/or moving the light closer to the plant.

Charming plant



This little plant has become a favorite of ours. **Hoya engleriana** is a small grower with tiny, needle shaped leaves. It's perhaps the smallest leaved hoyas we grow and the plant itself, even when mature, is small. Blooms are a bright white with bright purple-pink centers. The plant shown here was grown on a west-facing windowsill in one of our growing rooms, though it will do equally well under artificial light.

It has an upright growth habit, but if stems are allowed to get long enough, they will bend over and cascade out of a pot, or can be staked and trained to grow on a trellis or something similar. We keep ours of a manageable size since it looks neater and fits easily on our windowsill that way. It's inclination is not to grow too large, so this is easy to do.

Care is the same as for most hoyas. Porous, coarse soil (lots of perlite helps) kept moist but not soggy, bright but not intense (we've bleached ours with too much direct sun) light, and moderate temperatures (it tolerates well the variability in our windows). Propagation is easy by rooting tip cuttings.

This month's question

I purchased several violets from you in February 2023. They are doing wonderfully. I do have a question regarding a few of them. They flowered and were repotted from the original shipping pots into 4" Oyama pots. What I have noticed is that I have many plantlets growing, they are replicating in the pot. On one I noticed the lower leaves were rotting off. The original plant also became loose and I was left with 4 plantlets still in soil. I potted the original plant in a small 2" planter. Is this normal? What should I do with the other two that have plantlets but do not seem to be rotting at the base? Should I replot everything individually when I see this happening?

All violets will produce suckers (the extra plantlets) if allowed to. These should be removed as soon as they appear, even when very small, if you know it's not a flower bud. This will encourage better blooming and allow the plant to have a better shape. If left alone, you will get the multiple plantlets in the pot that you describe. You will need to divide the plants and pot these plantlets individually--or discard the remainder and pot just the "main" plant, as you did. Removing suckers as they appear will avoid having to divide.

As for the Oyama planters, many people use this (we don't), and they are fine if used properly. They are one of many "self watering" systems for keeping soil moist without you having to remember to water. Simplified, it is an inner plastic pot (with slits/openings at its bottom) sitting inside a taller outside pot. Follow the directions, filling the bottom of the inner pot with coarse perlite, up to the level shown on the inner pot. Potting soil fills the remainder of the inner pot above the perlite, into which you will pot your plant. Like any other self-watering system, the soil used should contain at least 50% perlite.

If your soil is too wet and/or doesn't contain enough perlite, you may lose lower leaves to overwatering and, eventually, root-rot. After repotting, water from top as the plant needs it (moist, not soggy), until you begin to see new foliage growth. At that point, you can begin filling the reservoir (outer pot) with water. Bottom line, your plants don't care, as long as they have water when they need it--ideally, moist...avoiding soggy or very dry, however this is done. Oyama pots are just one method, a convenient short-cut for the grower, to do this.

Calendar

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.

April 25-27, 2024.

AVSA Convention Show. Phoenix, AZ. We will attend and be selling.

Contact us

Email: comments@violetbarn.com

Mail: PO Box 9, Naples, NY 14512

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

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, simply click on the following link [Unsubscribe](#).

©2023 The Violet Barn. All rights reserved.