

# VioletsFun

Violet Barn newsletter

April 2024 - # 122

## (Some of) What's New



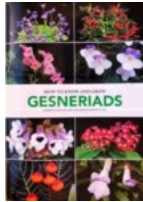
**Rose Bouquet.** Double frilled pink stars with darker eye. Heavily variegated, medium green, pink, and white, round, quilted foliage. Standard.

[More new listings on website.](#)

## News and updates:

### AVSA Convention show.

We'll be in Phoenix, AZ for this year's international gathering of African violet exhibitors and enthusiasts. Be sure to visit our sales table and introduce yourself.



### Know and Grow Gesneriads.

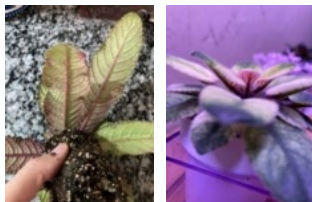
After exhausting our inventory of the original, now out of print, edition of this book, it's returned. An update, and huge improvement, of the original. It's fully illustrated with color photographs, and includes detailed chapters on the 52 most popular genera of gesneriads, as well as thorough cultural information. A highly recommended resource for any grower of gesneriads.

### 2nd Annual Open House.

Our 2nd annual show and sale at the Violet Barn has been scheduled for October 5-6. Last year's event was a huge success and we plan on improving upon it. There will be a judged show with more than 100 plants and many more than that for sale. Have your questions answered (if you have any) and look around. Tours of additional growing areas also available. Refreshments (and live music) as well. Admission is free and all are welcome. RSVP's are encouraged, so we can plan appropriately. Details on website.

[I will attend](#)

## My plant looks like this:



These photos came with the following question (which has been condensed): "I purchased these from you in 2023. Everything was going well until February. I first noticed a bright pink color on the bottom of one of the streptocarpus. It then started spreading to the sides of the leaves. Removing the original leaf did not help. The rich, dark green shade of the leaves changed also, some becoming paler. Today, a month later, I noticed the same pinkish hue on the bottom of the young leaves of my mini violet 'Jolly Jubilee'. I am worried I will lose these next."

*Please don't discard (any more of) them. Some varieties, like the violet shown (you don't identify the streptocarpus) will have reddish undersides. This is very normal, and can be one of the attractive features of the plant—many varieties described as having "pink" variegation will have red undersides to the leaves.*

*If the light is strong, it will often bring out even more of the red/pink. This is true of many of the streptocarpus. They can get quite reddish if the light is very strong. Will guess that your light is pretty strong, especially since you say leaves are getting paler. As the plants look otherwise very healthy and the leaves are firm and of normal texture, what you are seeing is quite normal.*

## This month's question

I am having a problem with one of the large Russian African violet plants I purchased from you. I've had it for quite a while, but all of its leaves are drooping despite proper watering as in waiting for the soil to dry out. The only thing that changed was potting it a size up as it was getting quite large and drying out very frequently. I use perlite in the soil for good drainage and feed weekly with food designed for African violets.

*If leaves are soft and drooping, this is likely a watering issue. If the soil feels moist and leaves are soft and drooping, then this is almost certainly so. When repotting, use a pot only just slightly larger than the existing root system. After doing so, proper watering is critical, as your plant needs time to get established and grow new roots into the extra soil in the larger pot. During this time, the soil needs to be moist but never wet. Very wet soil surrounding the smaller root ball can't be used until the plant has a chance to grow into and access it.*

*Without knowing more, guessing this is the case here. It is very common for this to happen after repotting as we tend to want to water "well" a plant that's just been repotted--this can work in your garden, but won't for your potted violets. A good rule is to water based upon the size of the root ball, not the size of the pot. Once the root system begins to fill the larger pot, it will be able to consume more water and this is less a concern.*

## Calendar

### April 25-27, 2024.

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

### May 2, 2024. 7 pm.

**AVGSR Meeting.** Our local African violet and Gesneriad society welcomes new members. Held at Messiah Lutheran Church, 4301 Mt Read Blvd, Rochester, NY. Program: AVSA show highlights.

### May 3, 2024.

International orders must be placed by this date for shipping week of May 13.

### October 5-6, 2024. 10-3 pm.

Sale and show at Violet Barn.

## Contact us

**Email:** [comments@violetbarn.com](mailto: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](http://avsa.org)

### Gesneriad Society

Has your collection grown far beyond violets? Consider joining the Gesneriad Society. More info: [gesneriad.society.org](http://gesneriad.society.org)

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

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