

# VioletsFun

Violet Barn newsletter

June 2024 - # 124

## (Some of) What's New



**Listy.** Streptocarpus new to our listings. Lovely combination of pink and coral with yellow overtones and darker marking down front of blooms. Very pretty and unusual.

View the website to see all of our new listings!

## News and updates:

### Northeast Plant show.

This will be our first time participating in this event, but we've heard wonderful reviews from those who attended last year. It's a one-day event, and is only a two hour drive for us, so it's possible for us to fit it into our schedule. We'll have a sales table there. As the audience for this show is more than just African violet growers, we'll be bringing more than just African violets. For more information: [www.facebook.com/Northeast-Plant-Show](https://www.facebook.com/Northeast-Plant-Show)

### Inventory updates.

Streptocarpus inventory has recently been updated, and inventory of miniature African violets will be within days. Since we ship a greater number of plants in spring and early summer, availability on the site can be more variable simply because demand for certain varieties is. We are always growing more, so return to the site if something you saw once no longer appears.

### 2nd Annual Open House.

Our 2nd annual show and sale at the Violet Barn is 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 (many larger "exhibition size") 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:



This photo came recently with the following question:

"Just needed your advice on this violet I had bought from you.

Actually, I have two of them and they are behaving similarly.

The leaves are curved and not crisp looking. I have good light.

Would this variety perhaps be needing more water than others?

I have not transferred them to the double pots that I usually put

violets in. I just water a small amount daily from the top."

*Guessing they are just wilted and need more water--the surface of the soil in photo looks dry. You're likely being too careful not to overwater. You want to water the plant thoroughly (so that the entire root ball is wet), when the surface of the soil is "dry to the touch"--it appears that might be the case now. Then, wait until the soil surface is dry to the touch to water thoroughly again. The time between watering can vary based upon maturity and variety of plant--how quickly the variety grows, the size of root ball, and the size of plant above the soil that the roots have to supply with water. Environment will greatly affect this as well--temperature, humidity, air movement around the plant. Watering a measured amount on a fixed schedule may not match the amount of water your plant needs, when it needs it.*

*I'm guessing that if you are only giving a "small" amount from the top daily, it's likely that*

only the soil surface is becoming moistened, and water never really gets down to the lower root ball. When you pot into your "double (self watering) pots", this won't be an issue, as the soil will be constantly wet when the reservoir is filled. Be sure you use lots of perlite, at least 50% by volume, in your potting mix, and use a pot size only slightly larger than the root ball of the plant when you repot into these pots.

## This month's question

When I received my order, all seemed healthy and a few were in bloom. As is my custom, I isolated the new plants in humidity boxes. The next day, I lifted the lid off of one box and a fungus gnat flew off one plant. I was able to kill the gnat, and I isolated this humidity box over the weekend. Today, I removed the lid again and found more fungus gnats on the plant and soil. I am concerned that the gnats will infest my other plants. Is there a product that works well on fungus gnats? I have tried a product called Mosquito Bits and it didn't work at all. I would appreciate any advice.

*Fungus gnats thrive in damp, moist, conditions. We will see a few here and there during times when this is the case in our growing area. Usually, this will be among plants that have been kept wet, intentionally or not, for an extended period--some of our "terrarium", and more "tropical" plants need to be kept more wet and with more humidity. We'll see more gnats appear among these.*

*We've heard differing opinions on 'Mosquito Bits' and the like. Some have success, others don't. We've never used them. As fungus gnats are mostly a nuisance, and won't harm your plants unless in VERY large numbers, I wouldn't worry about seeing a few. I certainly wouldn't use anything the least bit toxic to rid your plants of them. Our apologies if any of our plants were their source. As fungus gnats need wetness (i.e. wet organic matter like the potting soil), to live and reproduce, removing these conditions, will remove the gnats. Though isolating new plants is always a good practice, keeping plants under a humidity dome is only providing them with what they want. We've found that allowing the soil surface to dry between waterings is enough to eliminate them over time.*

## Calendar

### July 4-6, 2024

Gesneriad Society Convention, St. Louis, MO. Show, sale, presentations, more. For more info: [gesneriadsociety.org](https://gesneriadsociety.org)

### June 14, 2024.

International orders must be placed by this date for shipping week of June 24.

### August 3, 2024, 10-4 pm.

**Northeast Plant Show.** Held at the Oncenter, in Syracuse, NY.

### 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*

[More info...](#)

## 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.

## 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](https://avsa.org)

### Gesneriad Society

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