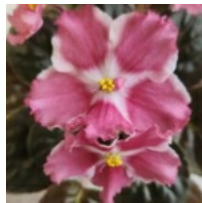


# VioletsFun

Violet Barn newsletter

July 2024 - # 125

## (Some of) What's New



**LE Macho.** Beautiful, very striking, double deep fuschia purple edged white. Dark standard foliage.

**RM Fragrance of Summer.** Sdbl. white stars with coral thumbprints and wavy edges. Medium dark standard foliage.

View the website to see all of our new listings!

## News and updates:

### Gesneriad Convention and Show.

Olive just returned from this year's convention in Saint Louis, Missouri. As always, this is a great show to see the diversity of this plant family. Many different genus, grown well. It's also a great chance to meet and talk to other knowledgeable growers--we always learn something. Travelling by air kept us from bringing plants for show though we did bring a box of sinningia for sale. She did come home with lots of new plant material though, namely many new primulina, and a few streptocarpus. We are busy propagating them now. Next year's convention is in New Jersey, a drivable distance for us, so we plan on attending and bringing plenty of plants.

### 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](http://www.facebook.com/Northeast-Plant-Show)

### 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:



Late this spring, we received similar questions from two different growers. Here's what they had to say.

*S. punter no. 6* (shown far left) is beginning to get established and putting on new leaves. Unlike *punter no. 7*, this one's new leaves seemingly have the appearance of sticky substance (?) and are appearing differently than

the more mature leaves. Can you tell if this appears to be a normal, healthy plant? Just making sure I'm giving it what it needs.

*Saintpaulia species diplotricha punter #6* does have more hairy and textured foliage than *punter #7*. However what I believe what you are seeing is the result of the soil being very wet. When nighttime temperatures drop, moisture ("dew") can accumulate in the center of the plant, leaving behind what you see--the bits of brown/white crust is salt/sediment in the water, left behind when it dries. Violets with "hairier" leaves seem more likely to show this

than others, likely because the hairs serve to trap moisture.

I have purchased many violets from you, though this (shown near left) is not one of them. I started it from a leaf. I have had less than 5 of my about 100 violets present with this unusual tan patterning on the leaves. It seems to come off with a wet Q-tip with a bit of rubbing. Are you able to tell the cause of this? It doesn't appear to be insects and it does not spread to neighboring plants.

*As it can be removed, seems to appear in the center of the plant and, (I'm guessing from appearances) you are bottom watering or the soil is wet, this is likely salt deposits/residue left behind by moisture accumulating in the center of the plant. Watering from the bottom, or constant watering makes this more likely to occur, as the water goes "bottom to top" and wicks its way up through the center of the plant, also being where leaves are most crowded and where moisture is likely to evaporate slowest. When nighttime temperatures drop, the leaves will "sweat", then when it dries the minerals in the water are left behind (think of the salts on a sweat-soaked shirt after it has dried). Not to worry. You can avoid this by moderating temperatures, improving air movement, and/or keeping your plants less wet, if possible.*

## This month's question

I recently ordered episcia, streptocarpus, and a primulina. These are new to me so I ordered the "seller's choice" and "easy to grow". Can I keep them all in self-watering pots? I am able to keep violets alive in a SW pot and although they don't bloom, they seem happy enough with nice foliage. Thank you for any help.

*All can be grown in self watering pots, though streps and primulina (aka chirita) usually prefer to have some dryness before waterings. Be certain to use soil containing at least 50% perlite, and don't overpot. Use pots only a bit larger than the root system. Neither streps nor primulina like to be overpotted--most growers find that primulina like to be a bit root-bound, and will bloom only once it can fill a pot with its roots. Episcia will do best with the constant moisture of a SW pot. They are a true "tropical" plant, so tend to prefer warm, humid, moist, conditions. As for getting your plants to bloom, you may need to provide more light. For episcia, there can be a trade off between foliage and blooms as well. To get more blooms (assuming light is sufficient), limit the number of stolons, or runners, you let it develop--unless you prefer an episcia with lots of leaves and fewer blooms.*

## Calendar

### June 26, 2024.

International orders must be placed by this date for shipping week of August 5.

### 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*

## 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)

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