

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

July 2016 - No. 29

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Our calendar:

July 25, 2016.

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of August 1.

Free stuff and how to get it!

2017 AVSA Show awards.

Best Robinson collections

1st place: \$200

2nd place: \$100

Write a review.

Write a review before ordering, good or bad, we'd like to know. Get a free plant added to order.



Each year we fall in love with a few plants when we attend large shows. *Eucodonia hybrid #3* is one of them--we just had to have it. It cost us a bit over \$200 when it was auctioned off at the recent Gesneriad Society



(Some of) What's New:

Grin. New Russian hybrid. Semidouble white pansy with green ruffled edges, medium green ruffled, standard foliage.

Pink Watercolor. Another russian hybrid with large, semidouble to double, bright pink with white eye and edge. Variegated, green and white, standard foliage.

Bristol's Zesty Lemon. New streptocarpus. Lots of bright lemon-yellow blooms that hold their color well, with thin purple pencilling in throat. Easy and constant bloomer, easy grower.

What's News:

Gesneriad Society Convention and Show.

This year's convention was held in Wilmington, Delaware, a 6 hour drive for us. We brought plants for sale, but also used this as an opportunity to see nearby Longwood Gardens. We've visited before (this was our fourth time), but it never becomes old. It's a "must see" for anyone who appreciates plants and gardening of any kind.

Also sat in on a few presentations, on (the reclassification of) *Paradrymonias*, and on streptocarpus and miniature sinningias. There is always something new to be learned. This convention is also a great place to see, and acquire, new plant material. Next year's convention will be in Omaha, Nebraska and should be worthwhile visit for anyone who has the opportunity.

A sampling of photos can be found on our "[facebook](#)" page.

This month's questions:

convention. We are propagating it now.

We also "won" a rare, heavily variegated, kohleria. The plant was *much* smaller--just a tiny sprig in a tiny pot, but it cost us even more. We are *carefully* growing this one out, and if we can propagate it successfully, hope to have them available in the future (it may be a while...).

Contact us:

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Our shop and glasshouse at:
7209 County Road 12
Naples, New York 14512
Open Tuesday-Saturday 12-5 pm

It's been hot!

It seems to be abnormally warm most everywhere in the country. We're still shipping, guaranteed safe delivery. We'll inform you when package should arrive.

Planning a visit?

Despite the extreme heat, plants are growing and blooming. Bloom colors aren't quite as intense, however, given the heat. Selection is good though, and a representative sample can be seen in bloom.

I wonder if you have an answer for me. I have a large, standard AV with a perfect rosette of deep green, nearly black, ruffled leaves and it has bloomed for me several times. The problem is that the leaves are so thick and stiff that the bloom stalks have trouble getting up above them. The blossoms will often open up under the leaves! I've tried gently urging them up and over, but the stalks sometimes break off. The blooms are otherwise healthy and abundant. I do not have a problem with any of my other AVs which are growing in the same location.

Given that your other plants aren't doing this, will guess that this is just the nature of this particular variety--i.e. it's "genetic", and you may be doing nothing wrong. You might try giving it a little less light, since you're getting plenty of blooms, and this might help "loosen" up the growth of the foliage and give more room for the stalks to emerge from the leaves. Too little light will cause blooms and leaves to stretch, too much can do just the opposite.

High (or very low) temperatures, hard water, or excessive feeding can also cause leaves to be thick and brittle and growth to be tight. You can consider these factors as well but, given you are only having problems with this one plant, it most likely is just one that is particularly sensitive your environment and/or is predisposed to this growth and flowering habit.

I ordered an episcia last October. I received it in good condition and it was packaged well. I tried to follow the directions that came with it but, unfortunately, ended up killing the plant. I put the plant into a bigger pot with AV mix soil right away, I'm not sure it that's what I did wrong. I'm going to order the same plant again. Should I wait a couple of weeks before I put it into another pot?

Would need more information to say for sure, but this might have been an issue. Wait a few weeks before repotting--let the plant get used to your environment and look for signs of growth before repotting. Go to a 4" pot next (from the 2 1/2" it came in), no larger. Don't "overpot" After that, pot only as the plant's root system dictates. Much more information on the [plant care pages](#) of the website.

Are you an AVSA member?

Consider joining! Sign up through our website and get a free plant! For more information, visit www.avsa.org

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