

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

August 2016 - No. 30

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Our calendar:

August 14, 2016.

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of August 22.

September 16-17, 2016.

Ohio State AVS Show
Held at the Kingwood Center in Mansfield. For more info, see: www.osavs.org

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.



Aeschynanthus Thailand sp. variegated. A rare, variegated, mutation of an unknown species



(Some of) What's New:

LE Beryl Frost. New Russian hybrid. Semidouble to double white stars with ruffled green edges. Green and white variegated, standard, foliage.

LE Isadora. Another new Russian hybrid. Semidouble to double white and pink thumbprint blooms with fuchsia fantasy splashes. Standard foliage.

Apis. Very showy new streptocarpus hybrid from Poland. Large, fringed blooms. Top lobes pink and yellow, lower lobes yellow, with red lines in throat. (limited supply)

PT First Date. (not shown) Semidouble white pansies with pink thumbprints. Medium green, standard foliage..

What's News: the heat!

The extreme heat just doesn't seem to end. Those of you living in the south or southwest may find this laughable but, here in the northeast, 6 continuous weeks of temperatures most days in the 90's is unheard of. Our growing areas are air conditioned, but this only drops the temperatures about 10 degrees--from insufferable to barely sufferable.

Of most importance is cooler nighttime temperatures. Once the sun sets on the glasshouse, temperatures inside begin to moderate. Once nighttime comes the air conditioning actually can drop temperatures to about 70f, and plants have a chance to recover and grow. Watering is important, too, since plants can go from wilted to dead very quickly in such heat. Good water has been easy to come by lately--with the AC running 24/7 we've been able to recycle from the AC unit most all of the water we've been using.

This month's questions:

from Thailand. We now have a very limited number to sell.

Acquired from cuttings a few years ago at a show, it's a slow grower and difficult plant to propagate. Beautiful, orange-red tubular blooms--but grow this one for the foliage since it's a shy bloomer. A unique plant, not likely to be seen elsewhere.

Contact us:

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Mon. thru Sat., 12-5 pm ET

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

Hot or not--we still ship.

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

I purchased two streptocarpus from you company a few weeks ago. One of them is thriving but the other one seems to still be suffering from the shock of its move. Both of them are in self-waterers and I planted them in a 50/50 mix of peat and perlite. They reside in an eastern sun window. What else can I do to perk up my plant?

The self-watering planter is likely the source of the problem. Streps don't like to be very wet, especially when young and the root ball is much smaller than the pot--likely the case here. Your soil mix is fine as is the light exposure.

Streps can be grown in self-watering planters, but pot them into these pots only when the plant has a mature root system not much smaller than the diameter of the pot. This way, the root system can access all of the wet soil in the pot. Streps are very easy to grow, and very tolerant of neglect in most ways. The one exception is that they don't like to be sitting in water or soggy soil for extended periods. Unfortunately, this is the nature of self-watering systems--they keep the soil wet all of the time.

I have an African violet that was growing under a desk lamp and all the leaves pointed up. A coworker gave it to me to see if I can get the leaves to spread outward but instead, the leaves are wilting and rotting. It's potted in an African violet pot and I feed it as directed by the bottle. Any help you can provide would be appreciated.

You have two issues here. The leaves "pointing up" is likely an indication that the plant wants more light than what it is getting. Artificial light is fine but, to grow well and bloom, most violets need stronger light than that provided by a reading or desk lamp alone.

As for the leaves rotting, this is likely due to water and/or soil issues. "African violet pots" are designed to keep your plant wet all of the time--convenient for you, but not good for the plant unless done properly. Unless the proper soil is used, the plant will be overwatered and will show the symptoms you describe. Use a soil containing at least 50 percent perlite--"African violet" soils sold commercially at garden centers rarely will have enough perlite. The fertilizer, given that you are using it as recommended should be fine--perhaps use more dilutely simply because AV pots process a greater volume of water than if top watering.

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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