

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

February 2017 - No. 36

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Our calendar:

February 21, 2017.

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of February 27.

February 23-26, 2017.

CT Flower & Garden Show

At the CT Convention Center in Hartford. Booths 800, 802. Info: www.ctflowershow.com

Winter shipping now applies!

Safe delivery guaranteed only via *Express mail*.

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.

Enter our photo contest!

First prize \$50, Second prize \$10

Entry deadline April 1, 2017. See:

www.violetbarn.com/contest



(Some of) What's "New":

Joy of Simple Memories. New Russian chimera. Semidouble white pinwheel pansies with blue fantasy on hot-pink side stripes. Medium green, quilted, pointed, standard foliage. Limited quantities.

Podunk. Large, semidouble lavender pink stars with fluted edges and blue pinwheel rays. Dark green, red-backed, standard foliage. Chimera. Limited quantities.

What's News:

After nearly a year, technical issues with some features of our online shopping cart have been resolved. Our apologies to all who had difficulties during this period. For those with accounts, or those wanting to create one, you'll notice some convenient features. Bookmark the new location: www.violetbarn.com/store

Photo contest winners!



Congratulations to Karen Nottonson for being the winner of our photo contest. A \$50 certificate good towards a future purchase is her prize. Karen's tells us her terrarium changes over the years. The one shown above has streptocarpus, episcia, columnea, petrocosmea, primulina, and kohleria, among other plants. 'Kwan-Yin' is the Chinese "antique" looking over things.

Contact us:

email. comments@violetbarn.com

mail. POB 9, Naples, NY 14512

phone. 585-374-8592
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

Are you a member?

Consider joining the African Violet Society of America. Sign up through our website and get a free plant! For more information, visit www.avsa.org

Has your collection grown far beyond violets? Consider joining the Gesneriad Society. For more info: www.gesneriadsociety.org



Our 2nd prize winners (we couldn't pick just one) were Carol Rice, with a photo of her Best in Show entry of 'Ma's Easter Parade', and Thomas Pirtle with a photo of *Primulina tamiana*. Both Carol and Thomas receive \$10 gift certificates.

We had so many deserving entries it was difficult to choose just a few. So many that we decided to give additional "honorable mention" awards to other favorites of ours. Each of these will receive a \$5 certificate. We can't show them all here, but you can see these, as well as many others on the "contest" pages of the website. Some will appear on our catalog pages (with proper credit given) to illustrate what these plants look like when grown by our customers. Thanks to everyone for participating.

Because the response was so good, we've decided to make the contest a regular thing! Contest details and rules, and to view many of the past entries, see www.violetbarn.com/contest

Entry deadline for this next contest is April 1. Send your entries to contest@violetbarn.com

This month's questions:

The root system is very small on two violets that were just planted into 4 inch pots. Should I bag them or put them back in the pots they were shipped in?

Usually, you would like to wait until plant's root system fills, or nearly fills, the current pot before potting into a larger pot. You shouldn't have to bag them, just be very careful with watering until the root system begins to grow into the additional soil. The amount you water should be based upon the existing root system, not the size of the pot. The point is to provide water to the roots, not the surplus soil. Water in moderation, and definitely do not use self-watering or wicking pots until the root system develops. You'll be able to control volume of water better if you water from the top.

If the plant doesn't look happy, you can bag it (in a clear baggie or container). When doing this, the soil should be moist, but not soggy--you don't want to rot your plant, since the soil won't dry much with the plant being enclosed. When you see the plant growing, you'll know it's roots are growing. At this point, the bag can be removed.

Earlier this winter, I ordered several plants. When they were delivered, our weather was very cold. It should not have been a problem, but when my husband picked up the box at the mail service, he left them in the car for several hours. Half of them looked dead. My question is, when I dumped the sinningia, they still had a bulb/tuber. That part was not soft or looked dead. Could I replant them and would they have a chance to grow?

Sinningia tubers are very tough and should resprout in time. This is how they survive in the wild--when bad weather (temperature or drought) kills the top growth, the tuber remains and will resprout from dormancy when conditions are favorable again. Many growers have tubers that are many years old (our oldest is about 20 years old) that will have gone through many such cycles of growth, then regrowth.

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