

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

May 2017 - No. 39

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Our calendar:

May 14, 2017.

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

June 1-3, 2017.

AVSA Convention Show. At the Wyndham Orlando Resort, in Orlando, Florida. For more info, visit www.avsa.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.

Enter our photo contest!

First prize \$50, Second prize \$10
Entry deadline July 1, 2017. See: www.violetbarn.com/contest

Contact us:

email. comments@violetbarn.com

mail. POB 9, Naples, NY 14512



(Some of) What's "New":

Apollo Pink. A wonderful oldie! Double, very bright pink stars with white to green frilled edges. Medium green, compact, standard foliage.

LE Cleopatra. New Russian standard variety. Bright pink doubles with blue fantasy streaks and flecks and darker fuchsia edges. Dark, quilted foliage.

Love Potion. Large pink sdbl. stars with raspberry edge and reddish-blue center stripe and fantasy specks. Dark, red-backed, quilted foliage. Standard chimera.

Scarabmouche. Large, double pink stars with light blue stripes and raspberry edging. Dark green and white, quilted, variegated foliage. Standard chimera.

What's News:

Don't forget to enter our **photo contest!** Our January and March contests were so popular, we're doing it again! Entry deadline is July 1. For contest details and rules, and to view many of the past entries, see www.violetbarn.com/contest



'Rob's Chilly Willy' appeared on the cover of the March-April African Violet magazine. If we had to name our favorite miniature, this might be it. The plant on the cover was grown and exhibited by Anne Nicholas and is very representative of this terrific variety. For those who don't get the AVM, consider joining AVSA and subscribing. The like appears at left.

This month's question:

When repotting miniature violets, I understand to remove 1/3 to 1/2 of the old root ball. My question is how to safely remove that portion? Can I just pull off an approximate amount from the bottom of the root ball? Do I need to cut it off with a sharp knife instead? Do I always leave the sides of the root ball intact?

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

The simplest way is to remove the bottom portion of the soil ball, leaving the rest intact--you can use a knife or something sharp. This way, you can simply lower the pruned root ball into (same size) pot and fill in the top with fresh soil to cover the neck/trunk that likely exists.

We prefer to remove more soil, from the side as well. We also prune away more leaves. This does set the plant back a bit in the beginning, but the results are better in the end, since this gives the plant more of a "fresh start" and will go longer between repottings.

As for the actual adding of soil, we also do this a bit differently. The traditional method is to "spoon" or pour in fresh soil beneath the leaves inside the top of the pot. We find this can be a bit difficult, not to say messy, especially when dealing with miniatures. Instead, we like to make a "mold". Fill the pot with premoistened soil (it will hold its shape better), press down, then create a hole in the middle with a finger. The sides of this "donut hole" will be slightly mounded. Then drop the plant's root ball into the hole--remember that we've trimmed the sides. It won't go all the way in, but this is good. We then fold the soil around the plants neck (working beneath the leaves) and press the plant, and soil down. With practice, it can be done in just a few hand movements--quick, easy, and with minimal mess.

This month's tip:

What's the best water temperature? Room temperature is best--water that is either much warmer or colder than the plant itself can cause stress. Consider what the temperature of the water will be when it contacts the plant's leaves or roots. If spraying, the mist will cool before contacting the leaves. If watering by mats or reservoir, it will also moderate towards room temperature in the time it takes to be absorbed into the soil which, itself, partly insulates the roots. Room temperature water should feel just slightly cool, but not cold--if it feels warm, it is too warm for the plant (your body temperature is quite warm!).

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