

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

October 2017 - No. 44

For best results, view in HTML

(Some of) What's New:

 'Like' us on Facebook!

Our calendar:

October 31, 2017.

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of November 6.

October 26-28, 2017.

Mid-Atlantic AVS Show & Sale.

Held at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House and Convention Center in Fredericksburg, VA. Info: www.maavs.org

May 25-26, 2018.

AVSA/AVSC Convention Show.

In Buffalo, New York, at the Adams Mark Hotel. Jointly held national conventions of African Violet Societies of America and Canada!

Mark your calendar! This is the event of a lifetime. Exhibitors and vendors from across North America will be there. We will have showplants, display, and sales booth. For more info: www.avsa.org or www.avsc.ca

Free stuff and how to get it!

2018 AVSA Show awards.

Best Robinson collections



Jazz Bouquet. Semidouble to double two-tone pink pansies. Dark green, red-backed, green and white to pink, variegated foliage. Profuse blooming semiminiature.

Jersey Lilacs. Semidouble dark lavender-purple two-tone pansies. Pointed, dark green and white variegated foliage. Semiminiature. (limited number)

Bristol's Kick Start. Terrific, compact growing streptocarpus. Double very dark purple blooms with dark purple veining and spotting on lighter throat, held erectly in nice bouquet over excellent, flat growing foliage that shapes well. Easy grower, constant and heavy bloomer.

and...for those who have been waiting (you know who you are), we have plants of 'Ann' to ship--see below.

What's News:

Ohio State AVS Convention Show.

Held at the Kingwood Center in Mansfield, in September. Lots of lovely plants. We had a sales booth at the show and entered a small handful of plants. Visit our ['facebook'](#) page to view photos of some of the beautiful entries.

Yes, we have plants of 'Ann' to ship!

This seems to be a variety everyone wants, yet can be hard to find (it's a difficult plant to produce in quantity). When we've offered it in the past, it sells out VERY quickly. Since we have a limited number at this time, there will be a limit of 5 'Ann' per order. We are growing more and will offer this variety again in the future--sorry, we don't keep waiting lists.

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.

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

*New hours starting Jan 1, 2018:
Shop and glasshouse open to
public Weds-Saturday, 12-5 pm*

For those attending the 2018 AVSA/AVSC convention, we are a 2 hour drive from Buffalo.

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

For those looking for something different, we've also just updated our inventory of "[other gesneriads](#)", some of the more unusual members of this plant family.

This month's questions:

I potted a trailer received from you in a hanging 6" pot with about 2-3 inches of perlite in the bottom and 1 1/2" of potting soil at the top. It seems to stay dry--does the perlite in the bottom of the pot absorb the moisture?

If just received from us in a 2" pot, it has been overpotted. Would suggest first moving it into a 3" pot (if overgrown, perhaps a 4"), then when pot bound, into the 6" pot that you mentioned. Since the 6" hanging pot is so deep (much deeper than the trailer's root system), the use of perlite in the bottom was wise. Since potting into such a large pot increases the chances of overwatering, the perlite will provide a place for the excess water to go--it will absorb some of it, but not nearly as much as the peat moss and vermiculite in the soil.

Trailers can be grown quite large, given enough time. Their nature is to spread across the soil surface, though, so their root system never grows very deep. For this reason, it's important to use relatively shallow pots as you move them up in size. Admittedly, these can be hard to find, so adding perlite in the bottom of deep pots helps. You can also try to "create" you own shallow pot--cutting a tall pot down, or adding drainage holes to a shallow container (like a deep saucer).

My violets are very large. I don't want to toss a single leaf, but these violets don't seem to bloom they are so large. Only one rosette. Can I still split?

If there's only one crown/rosette, there should be nothing to "split". Like most plants, violets will bloom from new growth, usually only the first three rows of leaves. Anything more than this really isn't necessary for blooms. If you have more than about 12-15 leaves on the plant (and are not growing it for exhibition...i.e. as a "house" plant), you have too many. Remove the older, lower, leaves. This will likely create a bare trunk or "neck", which can be eliminated by repotting--remove some of the lower rootball, lower plant in pot, and cover the neck with fresh soil. If you've done everything right, and your violet looks healthy but doesn't bloom, provide it with more light. (Note: above doesn't apply for trailing varieties or many of the saintpaulia species, which grow well multicrowned, with many more leaves).

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