

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

November 2017 - No. 45

For best results, view in HTML

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Our calendar:

November 21, 2017.

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

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

Winter shipping now applies!

Safe delivery on orders shipped after Nov. 14 guaranteed only by *Express mail*.

Free stuff and how to get it!

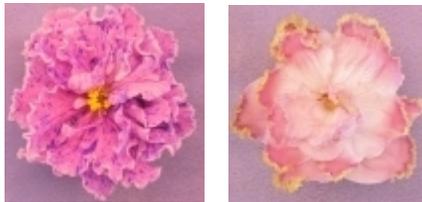
2018 AVSA Show awards.

Best Robinson collections

1st place: \$200

2nd place: \$100

(Some of) What's New:



PT Svetlana. (PT Svetlanka) New Russian variety with large semidouble to double notched pink stars with blue fantasy markings and pencilled white edge. Standard foliage.

RS Golden Fleece. (RS Zolotoe Runo) Another new Russian variety. Semidouble variable pink on white, with greenish ruffled edges. Medium green, standard foliage.

What's News:

Mid-Atlantic Convention Show.

This year's show was held in Fredericksburg, Virginia. A bit smaller show than in recent years, there were still a number of notable entries. Visit our ['facebook'](#) page to view photos of some of them.

"Winter shipping" in effect.

We continue to ship anywhere, anytime, but from now until April 1, winter shipping applies, and safe delivery is guaranteed only when shipped by Express mail.

This month's question:

I put my violets into a tray with water for 30-40 minutes. I put them into a tray (6 plants in at 22"x30" tray) with water, because I am concerned about getting water on the violet itself. I have had a leaf rot issue and have lost some plants. Is my watering system wrong? I water them weekly by this method. If I do not water weekly, they become very dry. Also, regarding chemicals, we have a water softener. I could bypass the softener system and just use our well water. Would this help? Please give my some advice on this. How often should I replot?

If you've having rotting then you've likely overwatered. The best method is always watering from the top, by hand, since this is the only way you can observe and control precisely where, how, and how much, the plant is being watered. It's also the most labor-intensive, and the reason many growers (including us) use other methods. Like all

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

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

"short cuts" they are imperfect and there are trade-offs involved. The plants don't really know or care--so long as they get the proper water, in the proper amount, when they need it, they'll be happy and grow well.

First, don't worry too much about getting the plant a bit wet--after all, this is how "mother nature" waters her plants..."from the top" and getting them wet. What's more important is the temperature of the water. Significantly warmer or cooler than that of the plant, and you can see damage. Though "saucer" or bottom-watering is an easy way to quickly water (sometimes many) plants, it lacks the control of top watering. The entire pot of soil is made very wet, even though the root system may not fill the entire pot. When watering multiple plants in the same tray, all are being provided the same water even though not all may need the same amount. Some may be more or less mature, with larger, or smaller, root systems. Some may simply dry out faster, or slower, depending upon location under lights, air currents, etc. Any group-watering method is going to be a compromise.

Use a light soil, with plenty of perlite and vermiculite. This will help to aerate the soil and allow (some) plants to be a bit wetter than desired, while not damaging the root system. Group plants together by watering needs--large with large, older with older, etc. You may have to adjust your schedule--watering some every 5 days, for example, and others every 7. Be prepared to make changes based upon observation.

As for the water softener, this may, or may not, be a problem. If your plants are healthy and lush, with nice green foliage, I wouldn't worry. A properly functioning softener works to remove the "hardness" (solids/minerals) from the water and will have only a small (typically lowers) effect on pH. Well water may or may not be an improvement. You can have both tested for hardness and pH. You'd like water with minimal minerals/solids (too much can cause damage to plants as it builds up in soil over time) with a pH close to neutral (7.0).

Regular repotting, every 6-12 months, solves a host of problems and is always a good practice. Changing and/or freshening the soil gives the plant a fresh start, encouraging new roots and growth. In the process, you are replacing "old" soil--that may have a buildup of fertilizer and minerals from the water, with new.

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