

# VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

January 2018 - No. 47

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## (Some of) What's New:



'Like' us on Facebook!

### Our calendar:

#### January 24, 2018.

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of January 30.

#### February 22-25, 2018

##### CT Flower and Garden Show.

At Hartford Convention center, see us at booths #802 & 804.

Info: [www.cttflowershow.com](http://www.cttflowershow.com)

#### 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](http://www.avsa.org) or [www.avsc.ca](http://www.avsc.ca)

#### Winter shipping now applies!

Safe delivery on orders shipped prior to April 1 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



**AE Saturn.** New Russian variety with beautiful sdbl. white pansies with bright orchid thumbprints on lower petals, spotted with purple fantasy. Medium-dark green standard foliage.

**AE Symphony of Breezes.** (AE Simfoniia Briza) Large lavender-pink, slightly fringed, stars with orchid fantasy speckling throughout. Standard.

**EK Tropical Noon.** (EK Tropicheskii Polden') Double deep burgundy-red blooms. Standard foliage.

**LE Antares.** New Russian variety. Large, slightly fringed, blood-red to burgundy sdbl. blooms with variable, pencilled white edge. Standard.

**Ocean Surf.** (not pictured) Double medium purple pansies with pink and white fantasy specks and puffs. Blooms fringed with white and occasional green. Large, variegated, standard foliage.

### What's News:

**We're now accepting PayPal!** After many requests to do so, we have begun accepting payment by this popular service in addition to other major credit cards or mail with check options.

Yes, we have '**Ann**' in stock and ready to ship. As always, these can be expected to go fast.

**Violet and Gesneriad-themed jewelry.** After a long absence, we again have these listed in our catalog. All custom designed and hand made, each is unique.

### This month's questions:

Attached is a photo of a Primulina 'Maxtimer' (not shown here) that I received about 18 months ago as a gift. I love the plant, but don't know much about the care. I am hoping for some advice. Here's some background. This plant has been in the same 2.5" pot since I received it. The person I received it from inserted a wick for watering but I have been watering from the top. I know it needs repotting, as the plant is about 9" tall and is

**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](mailto: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](http://www.avsa.org)

Has your collection grown far beyond violets? Consider joining the Gesneriad Society. For more info: [www.gesneriadsociety.org](http://www.gesneriadsociety.org)

top heavy, and the soil is very old. It receives natural light, and I have attempted unsuccessfully to keep the growth balanced.

*You can repot into a larger container, since it must be root-bound by now. Primulinas don't like to be overpotted, and tend to bloom when the root system fills the pot, so pot up gradually, one size at a time as the size of root system dictates.*

*To shorten its height, you can prune the tip, or not, it's up to you. Depends upon the appearance you want. Some will grow more bushy, others will grow more like a bonsai-type tree. You may have noticed a woody appearance to the stem/trunk of the plant as it ages. We can also see the beginning of a second shoot forming at the base of the plant. If you do remove the tip, it can be rooted.*

*How you water is up to you. So long as the plant gets the proper amount of water, when it needs it. Primulinas tolerate some dryness, and would rather not be constantly soggy, so if you do wick, be sure to use at least 50% perlite in the soil mix.*

*We grow most of our primulina under artificial light, so this will be fine. "Light is light" as far as most plants are concerned, so as long as the intensity is not dramatically different, the source won't matter. Your plant looks healthy, so you have a great start.*

I have a primulina 'Rachel' and the leaves seem to be losing their variegation/white center stripe. Does this mean I need to provide more or less light? Would this recommendation also apply to sinensis 'dwarf'?

*Not sure about light. Ours receive the same light as our African violets and other plants, but they'll tolerate both a little more or less. It's been our observation that this might be related to the pH of water. It seems that coloring of leaves might be better when water is slightly alkaline.*

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