

# VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

February 2018 - No. 48

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## Our calendar:

### March 6, 2018.

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of March 12.

### February 22-25, 2018

#### CT Flower and Garden Show.

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

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

### March 8-11, 2018.

#### Rochester GardenScape.

Flower and garden show at the Dome arena in Henrietta, NY. See us at booth #69.

Info: [rochesterflowershow.com](http://rochesterflowershow.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.

## (Some of) What's New:



**LE Sunset over Napoli.** New Russian variety. Double deep coral pink stars with slightly fringed, sometimes pencilled white edging. Medium green, standard foliage.

**RS Dawn Glowing Sky.** Another new Russian variety with large light pink stars with broad fuchsia border. Dark green and white TL variegated, standard, foliage.

**S rupicola Cha Simba.** (clone 8b) Single light to medium blue, medium green, pointed, serrated leaves. Standard sized, often grown multicrowned.

and yes, we have '**Ann**' in stock and ready to ship.

## 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.

## This month's questions:

For three years I've had what has been a beautiful violet that blooms at least a few times a year, with no visible neck. I have never repotted it as I know I'm supposed to. One day a month ago I noticed 3 layers of the bottom leaves were drastically wilting. The plant was not dry. I watched for several days with no change, watered, still no change, so I removed the wilting leaves. Now the remaining lower leaves have begun to wilt. I may have added some new potting soil to the top while doing so to other houseplants as I do from time to time. What is happening to the leaves and what is your advice?

*If a plant appears wilted, even after watering, and the soil is moist, then it's likely that the root system is unhealthy or damaged--either from overwatering, "old" soil, and/or pests. In this case, your existing soil is very old (at least 3 years). Adding soil to the top won't solve that problem, since the roots aren't happy and they're still in that old soil. We would suggest taking the plant out of its pot, pulling away much of the old soil. Given they symptoms, would suspect that the (healthy) root ball is not as large as it was, so you'll be able to remove more old soil than you think.*

*Repotting in fresh soil will give the roots a fresh start and encourage new growth. Use a light soil mix containing plenty of vermiculite and perlite and a pot no more than 1" larger than the diameter of the root ball--this will minimize risk of overpotting and overwatering until the plant recovers and begins growing again. After that, make it a habit to repot in fresh soil every 6-12 months. Remove older leaves, keeping only the first 4 or 5 rows--your violet only blooms from the newest growth. This will create a "neck" over time, which regular repotting can eliminate as well.*

**Free stuff and how to get it!****2018 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.

**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)

Recently, I purchased a growing stand from a club member. I am trying to determine the amount of light generated to make sure I don't fry the violets. The light meter I used on an incandescent light read about 250 lumens, regardless of the distance from the light. I switched to more powerful florescent lights with really no change in the light meter. My question, how do I know how much is too much light?

*Don't get distracted by light meters--they can be notoriously fallible if the right equipment isn't used properly. First, florescent tubes come in three main types- T12 (the familiar "fat" tubes), T8, and T5 (the really skinny ones). T8's are brighter than T12's, and T5's are even brighter--about twice as much as a T12.*

*Choose a distance that seems right. For example, about 12" below two T12 bulbs for minis, 18" below for standard violets. Provide 12-13 hours of light a day. For T8 bulbs, a bit further away, or for less time. For T5's even further--or perhaps use only one bulb instead of two. Let your plants give the final say. If you have lush foliage, but it reaches and you have few blooms, you need more light. If you have plenty of blooms but leaves are faded, brittle, or crowded, you need less light.*

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