

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

July 2018 - No. 53

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Our calendar:

July 31, 2018.

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

Free stuff and how to get it!

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

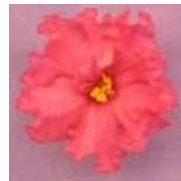
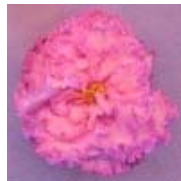
Open to public Wed-Sat, 12-5 pm

If you're visiting...

Because of high volume of spring shipping, this year's national show, and the recent hot weather, there are fewer blooming plants on display in our shop than usual at this time of year. Always best to come prepared with a "shopping list" for this reason.

Are you a member?

(Some of) What's New:



[Rob's Funny Bunny](#). Large, bright pink sdbl. stars edged in white. Pointed, glossy, red-backed, dark green and cream crown variegated foliage. Small semiminature. Excellent grower and free bloomer.

[Rob's Wascally Wabbit](#). Adorable! Round puffs of denim-blue double blooms with hints of white, above exquisite, tiny, pointed, dark green and beige to pink crown variegated foliage. Easy, tiny miniature, almost always in heavy bloom.

[PT Rosalyn](#). Large, fully double, sparkling pink carnation blooms with raspberry edging and spotting. Dark green foliage. Standard.

[RM Lubliana](#). This one is HOT! Wavy, deep, hot coral-pink double stars. Medium green foliage. Standard.

Many more! These are just *some* of the new varieties that have been listed in the past month.

What's News:

Gesneriad Society Convention Show.

This year's show was held in Framingham, MA, as six hour drive for us. Because of the (relatively) short distance, we had a chance to bring potted plants for sale, rather than the cuttings if we had flown. A small, but nice show. Among the many plants were some new sinningia, kohleria, and new primulina species--at least ones that we hadn't seen before in person. We had early entry to the sales room, and came home with a few things we hope to grow and propagate. Will list them on the site as they become available. To view more photos from the show, visit our [facebook](#) page.

Inventory updates:

Apologies for the limited listings of some items--we're doing our best to keep up. A number of the "seller's choice" specials are unavailable for this reason. We hope to update inventory within the next few weeks for many of the short in supply items.

This month's questions:

Consider joining the African Violet Society of America. Sign up through [our](#) website and get a free plant! For more information on AVSA, visit www.avsa.org

Has your collection grown far beyond violets? Consider joining the Gesneriad Society. For more info: www.gesneriadsociety.org

The size of the pots is 4 inches. I only use soil specific to violets. I have always watered them once a week (from the bottom in saucers) and all my older violets are fine with this schedule. The new violets were OK until a few weeks ago. They started to wilt, so I repotted them and kept the same watering schedule. They just died. This is strange since I have about 10 other violets and they don't have any issues.

We are fairly certain (having seen the photos) that the issue is one of overwatering. This can happen when bottom/saucer watered, especially when done on a fixed schedule, and especially after having been potted into larger pots. The initial wilting likely was the result of root damage from an initial watering problem. If then watered heavily again, this damage only becomes worse, giving the plant the wilted look even though it's been watered.

When potted into a larger pot, the root system is much smaller than the volume of soil in the pot. When saucer watered, this entire pot of soil becomes wet, even though only a small part of it contains the plants root system that can use this water. The excess soil stays wet, damaging the root tips, and repeating the earlier problem. Watering on a fixed schedule didn't help, either, since these plants were likely still wet when watered next, since they couldn't consume the water given last time. The older plants tolerated this regimen because they were established and had a more mature root system to use the water provided.

Violet specific soil ("African violet" soil) found in typical garden centers, and the like, can be fine if watering is precise. If not, they can cause more harm than good. Potting mixes containing lots of coarse ingredients, vermiculite, and especially, perlite, are best. Such a mix will give you more "margin for error" in watering, being more forgiving of the occasional overwatering.

For now, we would suggest watering from the top, so you can control the amount of water, and on a schedule that the plants determine--not fixed. Water when the plant needs it, and only as much as it needs. The rule of thumb is to water when soil surface is "dry to the touch". Goal is to keep the soil moist, not soggy nor dry. Once the plants recover, grow a bit, and have a fuller root system, you can safely return to your previous watering method and schedule.

I tried to move a potted leaf and accidentally snapped it off from its stem. The stem has roots. I know I can try to repot the leaf, but will the topless root stem produce a plantlet, or will it just rot?

You can reroot the top. As for the topless root stem (stump?), it may resprout another crown, if it has at least one healthy leaf still attached. If not, the odds are not good for it resprouting.

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