

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

October 2018 - No. 56

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(Some of) What's New:

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Our calendar:

October 23, 2018.

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of October 29, 2018.

October 19-20, 2018

NY State AVS Convention Show

At the Treadway Quality Inn, in Owego. For more info:

www.facebook.com/nysavs

November 8-10, 2018

Mid-Atlantic AVS Convention Show

At the Radisson Hotel in Harrisburg, PA . For more info:

www.maavs.org

November 12, 2018.

'Winter shipping' begins this week and extends through March 2019.

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



N Snezhnyi Georgin. Double white stars edged green. Pointed, medium green, semiminiature foliage. Blooms can be quite green when grown cool.

PT Fiona. Double white and green heavily ruffled blooms. Light green, wavy, serrated, foliage. Standard.

TV Moire Rose. Double bright fuchsia-pink blooms with frilly green edging. Dark green foliage. Standard.

Yes, we do have a *very limited* number of **'Milks Ten Cats'** for sale. This is a very rare, difficult to produce variety. It's availability will always be limited and sporadic.

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

What's news:

Inventory of begonias was recently updated, so there is now a relatively complete listing of varieties.

Safe delivery remains guaranteed via Priority mail through October. November 5 is the last week we can guarantee safe delivery via Priority mail. Beginning November 12, safe delivery guaranteed only when Express mail is chosen.

This month's questions:

Should I put some drainage material in the bottom of the pot, before the potting mixture or isn't this necessary? Also, is it wrong if I grow the violets close together, so they are touching leaves and there is no space visible between them (so they look like one large plant)?

If you have good watering habits, and you water from the top, and your potting mix is light and porous enough, containing plenty of perlite and/or coarse vermiculite, the drainage material in the pot bottom isn't likely needed. If you are a heavy waterer, especially if you bottom or saucer-water, adding a layer of perlite to the bottom of the pot might help, since the bottom of the pot will be spending part of its time submerged in

Our shop and glasshouse at:

7209 County Road 12
Naples, New York 14512

Open to public Wed-Sat, 12-5 pm

water. For this same reason, some self-watering pots, like "Oyama" or "Texas-style" pots need a layer of perlite to work best.

As for growing violets that close together, this can be done, but violets will always grow better given their own space. An African violet's (this doesn't apply to trailers or many species) intended shape is round and flat, with leaves evenly spaced about the center of the plant. This is hard to achieve if leaves are always competing over the same space and for the same light.

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 on AVSA, visit www.avsa.org

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

A little space between plants is also desirable to avoid or minimize potential problems. Good air circulation will help to minimize common environmental problems like powdery mildew. Overlapping leaves between plants also provide a means for pests, particularly those that don't fly, or fly well, to migrate from one plant to another--they can just walk! Lastly, plants just need some room to grow. Leaves can tend to stop growing when they meet an obstacle (or will have to grow around it). Even when provided some space, plants will soon fill it. You'll find yourself constantly pruning plants back, or spreading them out. You won't need to purposely crowd them--they'll do this on their own.

I just purchased your soil mix and my violets are doing well. However, I still struggle with watering. What is the best way to tell if your soil is crusty dry, dry, or moist? Is it just by feeling the top of the soil? Do you poke your finger into the soil?

The rule of thumb is "dry to the touch". This means "just" dry, not crispy dry. It should be enough to just feel the surface, without diggind deeper. If it's "just" dry at the surface, there will be some moisture still deeper within the rootball. Once the soil gets too dry, the peat in the soil can shrink and become hard to re-wet. Think of a sponge. It is actually more absorbent when it has a little moisture in it. If it is totally dry, it doesn't absorb well. If it is soggy, it won't either. Goal is moist, not soggy.

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