

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

November 2018 - No. 57

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Our calendar:

December 4, 2018.

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of December 10, 2018.

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.

Winter shipping now applies!

Safe delivery on orders shipped prior to April 1 guaranteed only by *Express mail*.

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-Fri., 12-5 pm

Are you a member?

Consider joining the African Violet Society of America. Sign up

(Some of) What's New:



Lik White Cradle. (Lik Belaia Kolybei) Double white and pink mottled blooms. Medium green, standard foliage.

PT Royal Person. (PT Tsarskaia Osoba) Dark red-purple double blooms edged in white. Dark green, standard foliage.

RM Coral Temptaion. (RM Korallovyi Sobiazn) Double white pansies with light coral blush. Medium green, standard, foliage.

What's news:

Change in shop visitor hours.

Due to unavoidable events and the resulting staff shortage, the shop and glasshouse will be closed on Saturdays during November and December. For these same reasons, certain items may be unavailable during this time. Normal hours and availability of items should return in January. Our apologies.

"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.

Inventory update.

A number of *Saintpaulia* species, not previously listed, have been added to the already extensive listing on our shopping cart.

This month's questions:

I just viewed a Pinterest site on African violet leaf propagation. The photos show a mother leaf with small slits starting from the petiole going up to the middle of the mother leaf. What are your ideas on this method? Any feedback is appreciated.

We've seen this done, and have experimented with this method in the distant past. It can work. Since the plantlets are produced from the cut edges of the petiole, the idea is to create more of this exposed cut. We've tried cutting lengthwise as well as making "notches" of various sizes along the leaf stem. All of these can increase the number of

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

plantlets produced from a single leaf. That said, we've found that making more (or larger) cuts increases the chance of losing the rooted leaf before it sprouts--it needs to be carefully and precisely done, with a suitable leaf. It's more difficult, for example, with tiny (miniature) or thin-petioled varieties.

In addition, it simply takes more time to do this than it's worth--the extra plantlet or two isn't worth the extra effort. We have plenty of leaves to root and, as a commercial grower, it's all about efficiency.

My African violet is growing tall with the leaves all bunched together...it is blooming abundantly. My question is how do I prune or thin out the leaves? And how many leaves can I take off without affecting the plant. I know it will repotting, but I just got the plant in May and am thinking I need to wait until it's been a year.

Always remove the oldest leaves first--work your way up from the bottom. You should only have one crown or growing point, unless this is a trailing variety or Saintpaulia species. If you have more than one, divide it, and pot crowns individually. A violet usually grows best with no more than about 15 leaves or so, since blooms are produced only from the newer growth anyway. In a trailer, it can have more leaves and crowns, though you can still "thin" the foliage out, using the same principle above. Repot your plant when it needs it, rather than by the calendar. This will usually be every 9-12 months, perhaps less if it grows very quickly.