

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

March 2019 - No. 61

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(Some of) What's New:



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Our calendar:

March 19, 2019

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of March 25.



Bristol's Italian Ice. Very showy new streptocarpus! Large, frilly, semidouble white blooms with bright yellow lower petals, lined reddish purple in throat. Excellent bloomer and easy grower.

Jersey Blue Ice. Semidouble white pansies with variable blue markings. Medium green and white TL variegated foliage. Semiminiature.

Texas Space Dust. Semidouble light pink pansies over wonderful, round, very dark green and white TL variegated miniature foliage.

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

What's news:

Episcias are back! We now have a good listing of episcias available for sale. Please be aware that these are tropical plants that don't like the cold (highly recommend using express shipping at this time).

Primulina and Sinningia speciosa are back! We also have a good listing of primulina (aka chirita) after a long absence. A small number of sinningia speciosa (aka "florist gloxinia") are also available for shipping--more will be listed soon.

This month's question:

I have an AV that has been growing in water for a few years. It bloomed like crazy this winter. It's in a vase, so the roots hang free in the water. Have you ever heard of such a thing? I'd like to put it in soil...do I just cut all the roots back to the crown and reroot in soil?

Plants can grow and bloom in water--you're growing yours "hydroponically". So long as your plant has access to water and nutrients, it will be happy. The only purpose of the soil/potting medium is to anchor the plant while holding water. Many years ago, Olive grew miniature African violets hydroponically in a perlite and vermiculite mix (no soil or peat) so she could transport them internationally (to pass customs) for a show. We've

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 still applies!

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 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

known others to do the same. We've also grown gesneriads, like Kohleria, in a vase as you did, and currently have a hoyo in a bottle of water--it's been in our bathroom window for years that way, blooming regularly.

As for potting in soil, you can either do so with the current roots, or without. Even done with roots, it will be a change, so use light, very porous, mix (with lots of perlite), and water moderately until it gets established again. If you remove the roots, and (re)root the crown, water moderately (neither soggy nor dry) and place in a clear container of baggie for about 4 weeks. It will have established roots by then, and you can remove from the bag/container.

I'm about to repot several AVs that I've let grow about a 4" neck (yike, I know). I have some rooting hormone that I want to use to encourage regrowth after lopping off the crown and rerooting. Do you think I can just dip the bottom in the powder and plant as usual?

African violets are tender plants that don't typically require rooting hormone to produce roots. We don't use it when rooting crowns but, if your plant has a particularly tough/woody stem, I likely wouldn't do any harm.

We find that the crown will root better if you trim away nearly all of the old trunk/neck and only leave perhaps 1/8" to 1/4" of stem, at most. This way you'll be dealing with the more tender growth that will root more easily. Besides, the whole purpose of doing this is to give the plant a fresh start--otherwise you're just hiding that ugly neck beneath the soil and you'll have to deal with it again the next time you repot. For those unfamiliar with the process, see our lesson on "[restarting an African violet](#)" in our plant care pages.

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