


VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

May 2019 - No. 63

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Our calendar:

May 21, 2019

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of May 27.

May 30 - June 1, 2019.

AVSA Convention Show.

(Inter)national show of the African Violet Society of America, held in Houston, TX. Info: www.avsa.org

Another reason to attend:

We will be releasing one or more new varieties of our own at the show--be the first to have one!

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.

Join AVSA! See our note below.

Contact us:

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phone. 585-374-8592
Mon. thru Sat., 12-5 pm ET

Our shop and glasshouse at:

7209 County Road 12
Naples, New York 14512

What's New (or returning):



Alamo Flame. Large, double hot coral pink blooms. Dark, standard, foliage that makes a nice specimen.

Bristol's Grasshopper. We love this one! Striking blooms with blue upper petals, lined inky blue onto bright yellow lower petals, tinged green when young. Nicely growing, compact, foliage.

Miniature Peperomias. Favorites of ours for containers, available again after a long absence. It adds a bit of color to any planting. These include the colorful *P. minima* and *P. rubella*, and unusual three-lobed *P. trifolia*.

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

What's news:

Spring has been VERY busy here. As a result, our inventory of many items has been less than desired. In April and May, we ship plants faster than we can pot and grow them! We do have a lot potted--they just need time to grow. Inventory has begun to return to normal for many varieties, and we should have much more in another few weeks or so. If you don't see your favorites listed (or did and they "disappeared") check back to the website--when we have more, we will (re)list them.

This month's questions:

What are your thoughts on foliar feeding? I have a friend that is adamant about not getting the leaves wet.

Though we don't foliar feed, some growers do. Foliar feeding is simply fertilizing your plant by spraying a fine mist of water and fertilizer over your plant, letting it absorb nutrients through its leaves. Leaves do "breathe", and can absorb small amounts when fertilized this way. It is usually done as a supplement to feeding via the soil and roots, rather than a substitute for it.

Some advice if you decide to foliar feed. First, use fertilizers that are easily water soluble, and use them at very dilute strengths, since leaves can only absorb limited

Open to public Wed-Fri, 12-5 pm
Saturdays by appointment.

amounts and any excess may remain behind as an unsightly residue on the leaves. Mix and spray with warm (not hot) water, since it will be much cooler when it contacts the foliage. Apply lightly, in a fine mist--don't shower your plant, for the same reason. Keep the wet plant out of cold drafts or sunlight, to avoid damaging the leaves with "water spots". It's not the water that damages the leaves, but the temperature of the water. Lastly, all of the above advice is even more important for heavily variegated varieties that can mark or bruise easily.

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

How much light is needed for violets planted in a cloche terrarium?

As much as they would outside of the terrarium. Though they will live and grow in less light, they won't bloom well if the light is insufficient. The trick to growing blooming violets in a terrarium is to provide enough light, without the heat of the light, which can easily build up in an enclosed container. This makes sunlight a poor choice since it also can prove too hot for the plants inside the container. Modern LED lights, which produce very little heat, can often be a good answer. Also, when growing blooming plants, like African violets, in a terrarium, be extra diligent in removing old or spent, blooms as needed, before they rot, become unsightly, and potentially cause problems.

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

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