

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

June 2019 - No. 64

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Our calendar:

July 2, 2019

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of July 8.

July 4-6, 2019.

Gesneriad Society Convention.

Annual show and sale of this international society. For more info: www.gesneriadsociety.org

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-Fri, 12-5 pm
Saturdays by appointment.

What's New (or returning):



Rob's Lucky Snowflake. Introduced at this year's AVSA convention, winning 2nd Best new introduction. A lovely plant, with glistening, double white blooms on exquisite, sparkling, seafoam green and white variegated foliage. A foliar chimera, remains heavily variegated regardless of environment or age. Very unusual, an easy grower and steady and prolific bloomer. Miniature chimera.

Cajun's Fascinating Fury. Sdbl. to double frilled blue stars with pink and white fantasy splashing. Dark green and white to pink variegated foliage. Standard.

Many more! This is just one of the new varieties that have been listed in the past month.

What's news:



AVSA Conention Show. Houston, TX was the site of this year's show. Big winners included Wayne Geeslin for his Best in Show entry of 'Buckeye Nostalgia' shown at far left.

Our varieties were well represented, '[Rob's Boolaroo](#)', in particular, which won Best Trailer in show for Sue Melson. As mentioned above, our only entry (hand carried on the plane flight), '[Rob's Snowflake](#)' won 2nd Best new introduction. Having to travel by plane, and our busy spring shipping, limited what we could bring for sale--apologies for those who were expecting a larger selection. More photos will be posted on our 'facebook' page when we have time to post them.

Inventory updates:

"Seller's choice" specials have been moved to a different page on the online shopping cart, called "[special offers](#)". Our past listings led to some confusion, as not all of the offers could be listed all of the time.

After shipping a record number of orders in April and May, inventory is finally returning to normal. More will continue to be added as the many plants that were potted in the last few months grow to a size large enough to safely ship. Keep returning to the website if what you're looking for isn't currently shown.

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

This month's questions:

How do I trim AV's? The leaves are climbing up the window since they are on a window sill. They bloom regularly, so they like where they are.

Some general rules: Always remove bottom/older leaves first--work your way from the "bottom-up". Not certain? Look at where the leaf stem/petiole is attached to the main trunk. Follow this rule when grooming plants grown for the home or for show to improve symmetry or shape, and you'll be certain to remove the proper leaves. Violets don't need more than 3 or 4 rows of leaves to bloom, so more than 12-15 leaves (trailers and species are exceptions) is enough. More than that, and the plant has far more leaves than it needs. As to "how" to remove them, anything from your fingers to a sharp knife will work, depending upon your dexterity and experience.

I'm new to streptocarpus. Is pinching off dead blooms recommended? How far should I pinch back if last bloom on a stem?

You can pinch off the dead blooms, or as soon as they become unattractive. Once the last bloom on the stem is spent (or before that if unattractive), you can remove the entire blossom stem, down to its point of origin at the leaf base. Unlike many plants, streps will sequentially produce multiple blossom stems per leaf. Unless it is a very old leaf, there is certain to be another blossom stem just behind the one you are removing, so there's no need to save them! Once a leaf has produced 6-10 blossom stems and begins to look old and unsightly, you can remove it as well--it has done its job.

Can I wick water streptocarpus?

Yes, but be certain to use a potting mix containing lots of perlite, at least 50%. Streps do not like to have wet feet, so it's best not to wick them until they have a mature root system, one that substantially fills the pot, that can use the water that is will be provided. For this reason, it's wise not to wick water very small or immature streps, or those that have been recently potted up into substantially larger pots.

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