

# VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

April 2020 - No. 74

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## (Some of) What's New:



'Like' us on Facebook!

### Our calendar:

#### April 21, 2020 .

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

**All of our spring shows have been cancelled.** If all goes well, we will hope to see everyone at a show this fall or next spring.

At this time all orders are guaranteed by any means of shipping (i.e. priority mail).

### Free stuff and how to get it!

#### 2021 AVSA Show awards.

Best Robinson collections  
1st place: \$200  
2nd place: \$100

#### Write a review.

Write a review before ordering, good or bad, we'd like to know. Get a free plant added to order.

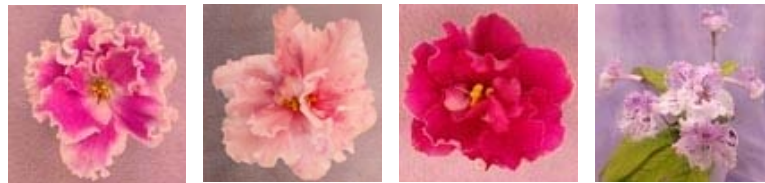
### Contact us:

email. [comments@violetbarn.com](mailto:comments@violetbarn.com)

mail. POB 9, Naples, NY 14512

phone. 585-374-8592

Mon. thru Sat., 12-5 pm ET



**EK Bright Kimono.** Sdbl. hot pink stars with white borders. Medium green foliage. Standard.

**EK Lemon Slices.** Sdbl. white pansies with pink and yellow markings. Dark green, red-backed foliage. Standard.

**EK Marsh Mendelssohn.** Sdbl. bright fuchsia red stars, slightly ruffled, with white edging. Dark green and white, red-backed, TL variegated foliage. Standard.

**Bristol's Poodle Skirt.** New streptocarpus of ours. Lovely, very frilly, double white blooms with light lavender-purple shadings and veining. Small, compact, foliage. Easy growing and blooming.

**Much more!** Check the website for all of the newest varieties.

### What's News:

#### What Covid-19 means at the Violet Barn.

Most importantly, we hope that everyone is healthy and is taking precautions to remain that way. We are hoping that life gets back to (somewhat) normal sooner, rather than later. All of our staff is healthy and, thus far, unaffected by the virus. We have taken as many precautions as we can. The shop is closed to visitors, our staff works in segregated areas of the workspace, and we disinfect most everything once each day.

Thank you to all who continue to support our business in the meantime. As is always the case in spring, we are very busy. Since some of our staff has chosen to stay home, or work a limited schedule, we are very understaffed at this time. This means that shipment of orders may not be as prompt as is usually the case--though the delays will be minor, perhaps just a day or two later going in the mail. We appreciate your patience.

#### Inventory update.

Being shorthanded, we are devoting what time we have on shipping orders as promptly as we can, leaving us little time to propagate and pot plants. As a result, many items (like episcia and some of the other gesneriads) may be temporarily out of stock. These will return as things return to normal and we have time to produce more for shipping.

**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, visit [www.avsa.org](http://www.avsa.org)

Has your collection grown far beyond violets? Consider joining the Gesneriad Society. For more info: [www.gesneriadsociety.org](http://www.gesneriadsociety.org)

**This month's questions**

What do I do with violets that are dying? Do I cut them off? From the base or just the heads? They're attracting small fruit flies.

*The 'fruit flies' you refer to are likely due to soil that has been kept too wet for too long. Let the soil dry between waterings (don't let the plant wilt), and you shouldn't notice them after a time. Our guess is the wet soil (or soil that isn't light or porous enough) may be causing the plant's distress. The fruit flies are not the cause of the plant's poor health, but a symptom of the same problem--the plant being kept too wet. Repot the plant to give it a fresh start (or [restart](#) it), using a soil containing more perlite.*

My streptocarpus will not flower. It was subject to a hot room so I moved it. I use Miracle Gro every watering. The leaves have been wilted because of the hot room. Doing well now but no flowers. What have I done and what to do now?

*Sounds like the plant may have been stressed for some time, so this will certainly set it back a bit. Streps are very tolerant of most anything (except sitting in water), but most would prefer cooler, rather than warmer conditions, if given a choice. Like all plants, they will bloom better when given good light. It's possible that your new location, though not as hot, simply doesn't provide it adequate light. Give it as much light as you can without scorching or overheating it. Better yet, you can grow it under some type of artificial light, which will provide you more light without the heat. Streps are generally very good bloomers, so it will be worth the effort.*

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