

# VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

June 2020 - No. 76

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## (Some of) What's New:

 'Like' us on Facebook!

### Our calendar:

**June 23, 2020 .**

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of July 5.

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

### 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

### Our shop and glasshouse at:

7209 County Road 12

Naples, New York 14512



**Ma's Vixen.** Our latest introduction and a real eye catcher! Double white pansies with sparkling pink and blue fantasy edging. Bright, medium green, foliage. Heavy and constant bloomer, easy grower. Standard.

**Amadeus.** Double deep fuchsia pink pansies bordered in white. Medium green foliage. Standard.

**RS Masha Rasterasha.** Sdbl. fuchsia stars with slightly ruffled edges. Dark green, ruffled, red-backed foliage. Large growing standard.

**Bristol's Cat Scratch.** New streptocarpus. Nice, compact growing variety with light orchid semidouble blooms with cream throat and dark purple "cat scratches" radiating from center on each petal. Nice grower and dependable bloomer.

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

### What's News:

#### "Show" News:

This is the first year in the last 40 that we were unable to attend the National AVSA convention, as it was cancelled due to the lockdown. Undeterred, AVSA was still able to hold a ["virtual" show](#). We were able to offer prizes to five people randomly selected from the entrants to the show. Congratulations to all. Next year's convention show is planned for Atlanta to celebrate the society's 75th anniversary.

### Inventory updates.

[Mini wicking pots](#) are again available. These come in four different colors and are great for those who choose to use a self-watering system for their miniature violets or other small growing plants.

It remains extremely busy, and we are doing our best to grow plants to replenish inventory--they just need time to grow. Some items that are normally listed, may be temporarily unavailable. These will return as things return to normal and we have time to produce more for shipping.

Sorry, the shop is currently closed to visitors. **This month's questions**

### 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)

My new plants are growing and look healthy, but today I noticed mold growing on top of the soil. Two weeks ago I transplanted to a plastic self watering pot. The soil is damp but not soaking. I scraped the top layer of the soil off, poured out the remaining water in each pot, and am waiting to hear from you on how to proceed.

*Unfortunately, dampness and mold often go hand in hand. Unless the "mold" is limited to the soil surface, and isn't extreme, it shouldn't do much harm to you plants. We would scrape it off, as you did. It is important to use a sterile (peat based), "soilless" (no actual top soil), mix containing at least 50% perlite when using any self-watering system. Even then, constantly wet soil can sometimes show mold or algae.*

My mother in law REALLY wants an African violet with blue flowers but has, so far, had no luck. I see you have a few species on your site with the word "blue" in the name, but they look purple to me. Is this a computer screen issue? Which blossoms are actually blue in real life, not just a variant of purple.

*Though "blue" and "red" are accepted terms in describing blossom colors, neither exists on African violets, at least not what most would consider "true" blue or "true" red. Genetically, these colors just aren't possible for violets. Both "blues" and "reds" will tend to be a bit purplish.*

*Though we can't speak to the computer screen issue, appearance of blooms can change due to many things. Though we don't alter the colors on the photos we take, the lighting and background in the photo admittedly, does make a difference in its appearance. The same can be said in your home. Moving the plant to a different location, with a different background, and under different lighting, can make blooms appear to be a different color even when, in fact, nothing has changed about the plant.*

*Considering the African violet's origins--basically only shades of purple on the Saintpaulia species, what we see on modern hybrids now is quite amazing. All the result of spontaneous mutations and the work of hybridizers over the last 70 years. Until there is a true blue or red, what we have now is actually pretty close.*