


# VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

April 2021 - No. 86

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## Our calendar:

### May 4, 2020 .

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of May 10.

**All of our shows have been cancelled thru 2021.** If all goes well, we will hope to see everyone at a show in 2022.

## Free stuff and how to get it!

### 2022 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

## (Some of) What's New:



**K's Simply Put.** New standard variety exclusively found on our online catalog! Large sticktite single to sdbl. deep fuchsia stars with broad, white borders. Wonderful dark green and white variegated foliage. To learn more, keep reading below...

This is the latest hybrid from Kathy Hajner, who has impressed us with many of her plants and is allowing us to produce and sell them. We asked Kathy share some insights about her background and her hybridizing.

Kathy's interest in violets began at a young age when her mother took her to a violet show in New Jersey and bought her several plants. She made her first cross in junior high school and she has hybridized on and off since then, with more focused attention in the last 15 years. During this time she started introducing her "K's" series of violets. Now living in New Mexico, one of her goals is to produce tougher varieties that grow easily for her in the high altitude desert. She also wants to create varieties with unique flower colors, shapes, and patterns that sit on nice, symmetrical, foliage.

After her hybrids prove themselves through an evaluation period of up to two years, the fun part of naming them begins. As for 'K's Simply Put', Kathy says, it "is an example of a variety that is easy to grow in my conditons and has nice contrast between its blooms and foliage, hence the name I chose for it." She adds that "most of my hybrids are named after famous race horses and delicious cocktail drinks. Like most things that take patience and time, hybridizing and growing violets are definitely worth the effort and the beauty they add to our lives. I hope you enjoy them as much as I do!"

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

## What's News:

**Spring shipping in effect.** At this time we can guarantee safe delivery to most locations by any shipping means selected.

Our shop remains closed to visitors still, for the safety of our staff and others. We hope to reopen as Covid restrictions ease and life returns to some semblance of "normal", and will announce any changes to visitor hours here and on the website when this happens.

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

**Our shop and glasshouse at:**  
7209 County Road 12  
Naples, New York 14512

Sorry, our shop is closed to visitors at this time.

**Place an order for pickup!**

For those living locally, we are offering **pickup service**. Save on shipping, and we'll have your plants waiting for you.

**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)

**Inventory updates.**

Miniature chimeras will be updated within the next week or so. Episcias are presently out of stock but will return in another couple of weeks. Our apologies for the erratic inventory--demand is great and unpredictable, and plants only grow so fast.

**My violets look like this:**



"This" meaning lots of leaves showing little to no green. Some variegated varieties, like this one ('Rob's Love Bite') can be so heavily variegated when young that they are almost entirely white or pink. There's nothing wrong with the plants, but you will have to be patient. Until they "green up", they will grow slowly, lacking the chlorophyll needed for vigorous growth.

To help the green up, provide them just a bit more warmth. Growing them cool only keeps them heavily variegated. Be careful not to overwater, as they grow slower and won't demand, or need, as much water. For this reason, avoid using self-watering or wicking pots until plants are more grown and established. When pruning, try to keep at least some leaves that are green, or showing green, on the plant, even if they might otherwise be removed (like immature or out of place leaves), as these might be the only significant chlorophyll source the plant has. Feed normally with any balanced formula fertilizer--don't overfeed, as they are growing slowly, and avoid nitrogen deficient "bloom boosting" fertilizers (you want green leaves at this point, not blooms). Then, be patient. They will green up and grow eventually. Enjoy the colorful leaves while you wait.

**This month's question.**

I'm going to be gone for a month. How would it be best to care for my violets?

*While you're gone, you'll want your violets, like your adolescent children, to be self-sufficient, not to misbehave, and be alive and in one piece when you return. You'll want to provide them what they'll need, while setting rules and boundaries for their behavior. For your violets, we would suggest using some kind of self-watering system, like self-watering or wicking pots, if you aren't already. Be sure to use a soil containing at least 50% perlite, and have enough water in the reservoir to last a month. Leave them in an area with adequate light. If growing in natural light, avoid locations where the sun may be too intense, or become so as the calendar progresses, but sufficient to keep the plant happy and growing (though perhaps a bit slower) while you're gone. If using artificial light, use lamp timers to control time and length of light. Don't place in front of an airconditioner, or heating vent, as this will quickly dry even the best watered plants. Keep temperatures in the growing area (if you can) a bit on the cool side, as this will slow the plant's growth, but no lower than 60f degrees.*

*Remove all of the blooms and visible buds. You won't be there to see them, and dead and decaying blooms can cause problems if not removed. For the same reason, prune away older or unnecessary leaves. If the plant is in need of repotting anyway, this might be a good reason to do this before you leave. Do all of this a week or so before you leave, so you can address any problems while you are still there to do so. If all goes well, your violets will have grown while your gone, but not be overgrown, and be blooming, or about to, when they welcome you home.*