

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

May 2021 - No. 87

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Our calendar:

May 25, 2020 .

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of May 31.

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.

Join AVSA.

See further below in this column.

Contact us:

email. comments@violetbarn.com

(Some of) What's New: Available June 3--see details below!



Ma's Incomparable. Large double white stars with pink edges dotted in blue fantasy. Medium green, standard foliage.

Ma's Tiger Tiger. Semidouble fringed bright fuchsia-red blooms. Dark green and white to pink TL variegated standard foliage.

These are our two newest introductions. A limited supply will be initially available for sale only to registrants of the AVSA "cyber convention". Registrants will be provided links to the virtual sales room giving them access to the varieties shown above as well as specials and offers from other vendors. You must be registered to enter the sales room!

What is the AVSA cyber convention and how to you register? With in-person attendance not possible this year, the African Violet Society of America is holding its annual convention "virtually"--online. This year AVSA celebrates its 75th anniversary, and the highlights of the convention will remain the same. Tours (including the Violet Barn), lots of guest speakers and informative presentations, a virtual "show room" where many beautiful plants and exhibits can be seen, and the sales room.

For more information, and to register, visit the link below:

<https://africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org/cyber/>

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

What's News:

Shop reopening to visitors with limited hours. .

Our shop and growing area will be opening to visitors with limited hours beginning Sunday, June 6. Shop hours will be 12-5 pm each Sunday and appointments

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

Limited visitor hours: see note

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. Join through our website when ordering and get a free plant! For more information, visit www.avsa.org

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

are suggested as no more than 6 persons at any given time will be allowed--please wear masks upon entering, and be considerate of others including our employees.

Available plants will be same as what appears on website, with a handful of additional (often larger) plants for in person sales.

Inventory updates.

Miniature violets should be updated later this week. Standard violets, particularly our own "Ma's" hybrids should be in good supply once updated in early June. For those waiting for hoyas and episcias, please be patient and continue to revisit the website--these items, hoyas especially, are in VERY high demand and sell quickly once we list them. We grow them as quickly as we can, but it's rarely enough.

My violet look like this:



Can your violet get "sunburn"?--yes! The plant shown as left has the symptoms you might expect. We chose this plant because it does, indeed, look like sunburn with its reddish-brown leaves.

When the light is too intense, foliage will fade or otherwise discolor and new growth can be tight in center and leaves might be thicker or more brittle. Growing plants in natural light involves some uncertainty and risks. After all, your plants are partly at the mercy of Mother nature, and she can have a mind of her own. Each window, and season, is different, and finding the perfect light can be a challenge. Sunburn can happen without the sun as well--this plant was grown under artificial light (a new fixture) in our shop. We reduced the brightness of the light and new growth loosened and returned to its normal color.

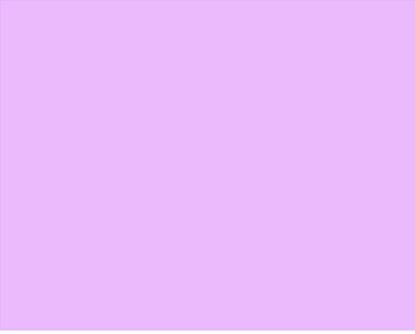
Of course, there can be many other causes of faded or discolored leaves--water pH, nutrition, pests, or generally poor culture or stress. If you are confident you are otherwise treating your violets well, especially if they are blooming and growth is relatively flat to the pot (not reaching upwards), but leaves are faded, light intensity might be the cause.

This month's question.

After about five years and many repottings, my lovely '[Rob's Combustible Pigeon](#)' has reverted to full size with two inch leaves. What happened? I have two others from leaf propagation from the original which are still smallish, but with two crowns despite severely cutting them when repotting. The original also grew two crowns. Would love any advice or explanation.

This can happen sometimes. African violets are, by nature, a bit unstable genetically. This is largely why we have so many beautiful colors, in blooms and foliage, in a variety of shapes and sizes, when their ancestors were limited in size and color. This particular variety we've found to be quite stable in size, though its multicolor blossom will sometimes revert to a solid pink or blue ('Rob's Dodo Bird'). When we propagate, we always select leaves from the best examples, in size and color, of the variety, always keeping a "good" strain for this use.

Keeping them single crowned will help, as will regular pruning. (Semi)miniature varieties will, by nature, want to stay small, but will grow larger if conditions make this advantageous. It's a survival instinct--larger plants are more likely to survive than their smaller neighbors. They get more of the scarce resources--light, water, and nutrients. To prevent this, don't let put it into "survival" mode. Give it space, so it doesn't feel compelled to compete with adjacent plants, and encourage it to grow small. Most violets, unless large specimens grown for exhibition (even then



sometimes), won't need more than 12-15 leaves to grow and look well. Miniatures, especially, don't need more than this--after all, they are supposed to be small! You will find that regular grooming and pruning not only will keep the plant smaller (by removing old outer leaves) but the leaves themselves will be smaller.

Though a bit dated, a good discussion of this is an article we wrote over 30 years ago on the subject on "[keeping miniatures miniature](#)", found in the plant care pages of the website.