

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

September 2021 - No. 91

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Our calendar:

September 28, 2021 .

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of October 4.

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

At this time all orders are guaranteed by any means.

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:

(Some of) What's New:



Ma's Lemon Rhubarb. Our newest release, the photo doesn't do it justice. Beautiful, white to bright golden yellow and green variegated foliage makes this unique. Large, variable fuchsia and white semidouble stars. A real eye-catcher. Standard.

Much more found on the website!

What's news:

Hours for visitors remains limited (see sidebar)--one of the realities of running a business during Covid. Sundays remain the only day when we can safely allow visitors into our growing areas. Our full staff is here during the week and Saturdays remain our only day to collect plants for shipping undisturbed. If you would like to visit, call us in advance to make an appointment.

Inventory updates.

Streptocarpus, begonia, and hoya (sorry, hoyas won't last long) inventory have all been updated very recently. If you have been looking for these, there will be a much better selection now. We still have a good selection of sinningia as well.

Mini wicking

My plant(s) "looks like this"



Then it needs more light and, when grown in windows, where the light source isn't above the plant, needs to be frequently turned.

The photo at far left, of 'Rob's Heebie Jeebie' shows the plant two months after it was received, and came with an email questioning whether this growth pattern of the foliage was normal. The second photo, of 'PT Svetlana' came with the following question. "I need your opinion as to why this plant has gotten so leggy. Yes, it is in a self-watering pot. It has never bloomed and I received this 10 months ago. Another plant purchased at the same time has bloomed."

In both cases, the plants are responding the intensity, and direction, of the light source. The leaves of the plant at far left are twisting in an effort to expose more surface

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

Open to public Sundays 12-5
Please call ahead for appt.

Place an order for pickup!

For those living locally, we offer 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

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

area to the light source. Unfortunately, some varieties, like this one, are more prone to do this. "Rob's Heebie Jeebie" actually will grow quite flat, tighter (without the gaps between leaf rows), and bloom very heavily, when grown underneath artificial lights. The twisting, gaps in growth, and lack of blooms, all indicate that this plant isn't receiving enough light, and not from above. In the second photo, the small leaves growing loosely and stretching upwards suggests a lack of light as well.

This is simply the limitation of a natural light source--you don't have control over intensity due to season, geography, or weather. Plants can only grow and bloom as well as the conditions allow. If the light source comes from the side of the plant, leaves will bend towards it and, if not enough, will reach upwards to attempt to get more of it. Lack of blooms also suggests lack of light. An otherwise healthy violet, grown single crowned (no suckers, species and trailers are exceptions), should bloom regularly with sufficient light. If it blooms seasonally, or not at all, this is simply because the lighting is adequate for blooming only in certain seasons, or not at all.

This month's question

My African violet was developing root rot a few months ago, so I cleaned away the rotten growth and put the plant in fresh soil and in a plastic ziploc bag. I wasn't sure when it was safe to take it out until I came across your website. It has been almost three months, I have not had to water it this whole time. It appears very happy, lots of new leaves. However, there appears to be roots growing from the neck all the way from the bottom to the top. It is a tiny plant with a thin, fragile neck, if you can call it that. Should I cut off the exposed roots and pot it deeper in the soil?

This can happen when left in the bag too long. With all of the humidity, it has grown aerial roots. You will likely need to repot it, lower into the soil, or restart/reroot it again. When you do this, be certain that the soil is relatively firm and the plant (or crown) is well anchored in it. It will root better, and grow stronger, if this is the case. The soil should be very moist, but not soggy. Once enclosed in the baggie, it won't need watering and, if soil is soggy, might rot. It should be rooted in 4-6 weeks, at which time you can remove it from the bag. Growth will not be as thick or "sturdy" if left in the bag too long. Think of how muscles or bones weaken with lack of use--a tree is stronger when it must stand up to the wind and elements.