

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

October 2021 - No. 92

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Our calendar:

October 19, 2021 .

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of October 25.

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:



Rob's Mirrabooka. Our newest trailing hybrid. Variable white and blue double stars and wonderful, heavily variegated, white and green, pointed, semitrailing foliage. Semiminiature trailer.

Much more found on the website!

What's news:

October is the last month for which we can guarantee safe delivery by priority (2-3 day) services. Orders placed after November 1 must be shipped express (overnite to most areas) to guarantee safe arrival. We ship every week of the year. We ship both by US Postal and UPS. Due to the unreliable nature of the US mail recently, we are now shipping most orders via United Parcel Service (UPS). If you have a preference in how you require your order to be shipped, you may state this in the delivery comments field upon checkout.

October special - Free plant with your order!



Asplenium bulbiferum. Commonly known as the "mother fern" because it will produce tiny plantlets on top of its fronds once mature. These will fall off (or can be taken off) and grown into new ferns once rooted. A pretty plant even without this curious habit, it makes a graceful, attractive, display.

We propagated a tray of these and will send one free with orders for as long as they last. To get yours when you order, **you must use the coupon code: "FERN"**. Only valid on orders placed via website and while supplies last.

Inventory updates.

[Streptocarpus](#), inventory has been updated very recently. Hoyas will be updated next weekend. Miniature violets to be updated within the week. If you have been looking for any of these, there will be a much better selection.

This month's questions

email. comments@violetbarn.com

Should streptocarpus have only one crown or are several fine?

mail. POB 9, Naples, NY 14512

Streptocarpus can be grown single or multicrowned. Much depends upon the appearance you want. Grown as a single crown, plants will have fewer, but larger, leaves. As each leaf will produce flowers, the number of mature leaves will also largely determine the total amount of bloom the plant will display at any given time.

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

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

Personally, we grow them multicrowned, since this gives the appearance of a fuller plant and will generate more bloom. We do limit the number of crowns, though, because beyond two or three in a pot, the plant begins to look a bit crowded and weedy for our taste, and there are diminishing returns in terms of flowering. We also don't like to grow in more than a 5" (or 6" pot at most) due to space constraints in our growing area. This necessarily limits the size of the plant and number of crowns. We typically will repot our streps every 6-9 months, at which time most can be divided and given fresh soil. This is what we do. If you have the space, and want a larger plant with a fuller look, this can certainly be done.

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.

This year my streptocarpus have grown many smaller leaves instead of the large ones they usually produce. They also don't flower like they used to. Do you know why that might be?

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

(We are printing this question as it relates to the one above, and came to us at about the same time). Many things can cause streps to produce smaller leaves or lack of bloom. It may be (a change in) environment or care. Insufficient light could cause either of these. Grown in a window, this can easily happen as seasons and day length change.

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

Your plant might also be in need of repotting and/or dividing. Streps will multicrown over time and can quickly fill a pot and become rootbound. When this happens, if growth isn't "thinned out", leaves produced will be smaller and not fully developed. These less developed leaves will tend not to produce the same bloom count as well. If your strep looks like a mass (or mess) of leaves in a pot, or is obviously rootbound, it's time you divided and repotted, or thinned out and potted into a larger container. Much depends upon the appearance you desire (see above).