


VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

November 2021 - No. 93

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Our calendar:

January 11, 2022.

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of January 17. Due to likely delays caused by holidays, we are not accepting international orders during month of December.

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

Winter shipping.

Select **Express shipping** to guarantee safe delivery of your plant order.

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.

(Some of) What's New:



Ma's Phaser Blast. Double pink with variable light blue fantasy speckling. Dark green, quilted, serrated foliage. Standard.

Ma's Top Bass. Double coral-pink blooms over nice, dark green and white TL variegated foliage. Standard.

Much more found on the website!

What's news:

Winter shipping now in effect. We ship every week of the year, including in winter. To guarantee safe arrival, select **Express** shipping. This will be overnite delivery to most areas, and a signature may be required if we deem it necessary due to weather or location. Is at customer's risk if sent by priority.

Inventory updates. Standard violets were updated within the last few days, and streptocarpus within the last week. Miniature terrarium and houseplants will be updated again within the next week. As our inventory continues to improve, we have begun to expand our "seller's choice" special offerings.

My plant "looks like this"



A message received from one of our customers: "Last year, my wife bought a kohleria from you, because she fell in love with the flowers. This past spring it was still growing and getting very leggy, about 16 inches high. It had two upright stalks. She cut both in half. Rooted the cut pieces and they are growing but still not flowering. The original plant

suddenly started showing blooms and we have a whole lot of flowers, with more

Join AVSA.

See further below in this column.

Contact us:

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

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

coming. The plant now has five babies coming up in the pot. She is very happy, to say the least."

We asked for permission to reprint the message and photos because they illustrate well what we tell people about kohlerias. First, they are tough plants that are adaptable and easy to grow. They also need to be disciplined to look and perform their best. They grow quickly and easily and if never pruned, you will eventually face a "Jack and the beanstalk" kind of problem. Our advice is just what's been done here. When your kohleria looks a bit leggy, cut it back--even if it's blooming. Place the cuttings in a vase with some water--kohlerias make a great cut flower. The cuttings will root and continue to grow (and bloom). Meanwhile, the pruned plant will branch, grow, and bloom. You'll have a much fuller, more attractive plant.

Further, being rhizomatous, kohlerias will produce new growth at from the rhizomes beneath the soil, making for a still fuller plant. Of course, this all may lead to another problem--too many plants!

This month's questions

Can violet leaf cuttings be stored? If yes, what are these conditions and for how much time?

Yes. This is something we will frequently do when we are short of plants and/or short of time to propagate them. This is what we do, though there are likely other creative methods. First, line the bottom of a tray, or container, with wet paper towels. Place a layer of leaves, flat, facing up, on the wet paper towels. No need to wrap, or cover, the leaves in more towels. Then cover and seal the tray with a clear lid. Place the tray in a place with some light (needn't be full light) and moderate, "room" temperatures. Leaves will stay fresh almost indefinitely if the tray is sealed well and the towel remains damp--we've even found leaves to have rooted and producing plantlets on trays we've forgotten about.

Just wondering what type of fertilizer I should use for my streptocarpus for blooms. Mine are growing way too many leaves.

Light is most important for blooms and lack of it is always the most likely reason plants are not blooming well. Provide as much light as you can, short of intense, or hot, light. If you have lots of nice, green leaves but no blooms, provide more light. We recommend using a "balanced" fertilizer, where the listed NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium) ratio is not extreme. Any readily available, general "houseplant", food should be sufficient. Like any living thing, good health means having a balanced diet. If you have a healthy plant, and sufficient light, it should bloom.

If you have too many leaves, this may also play a role in blooming. Most plants, including streps, produce bloom from new growth. Having lots of old growth won't mean more blooms. Thinning out this old growth, or dividing and repotting, the plant will encourage new growth (not maintenance of old growth), and might help to encourage blooming.

