


VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

February 2022 - No. 96

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Our calendar:

February 22, 2021 .

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of February 28.

CT Flower & Garden Show.

Sorry, but we will not be selling at this year's show.

May 26-28, 2022.

AVSA Convention Show.

(Inter)national show held this year in Little Rock, Arkansas. Details to come. visit avsa.org

Winter shipping.

Select **Express shipping** to guarantee safed 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:



Dale's Smurf Party. A small growing streptocarpus hybrid from Dale Martens with oversized blooms for small plant size. Orchid-lavender blooms with yellow throat and darker veining. Nice, flat, quilted leaves with an excellent growth habit. An early and easy bloomer and easy grower, good for the novice. Limited quantities available.

Check the website for all of the newest varieties.

What's news:

Spring is around the corner!

After virtually no snowfall up to that point (unusual here), we got hammered in mid January with about 2 feet over the course of 2 days--ouch!! Then the frigid temps. Since we have to schedule shipping around the weather here, this meant some disruptions in getting orders out in January--our apologies. The forecast is for more seasonable weather and shipping back to normal. That said, **Express** shipping is still needed for us to guarantee safe arrival of plants at this time.

Thanks to the Yuma Orchid and AV Society.

For inviting us to speak via Zoom at their Febuary meeting. Good to see that plant societies are still finding ways to meet and learn given the obstacles they now face.

Inventory updates.

[Standard chimeras](#) are now fully in stock and should remain so for the foreseeable future. As our inventory improves, most of the "seller's choice" packages can be found on our "[special offers](#)" page.

What's that?



Bolbitis heteroclita. One of very favorite miniature plants. This very tiny, semi-aquatic, fern is native to the Philippines. It never grows more than a few inches tall, spreading from thin, woody, rhizomes. It has fine, finely dissected, emerald-green fronds, and will sometimes produce small plantlets from the frond tips. Though not a fast grower, given time, it can spread to create a lush ground cover.

Being semi-aquatic, and tropical, it prefers high humidity and moist soil. The damp, humid, conditions of a terrarium (or vivarium)are ideal. Though it can be grown outside of a terrarium, (in our experience) it will never thrive outside of one. Provide moderate

Join AVSA.

See further below in this column.

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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.

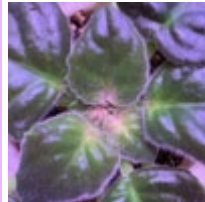
Are you a member?

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

light and temperatures, though it will do well with a bit less of the former and a bit more of the latter. It is a light feeder (don't overfertilize).

When we first acquired this plant, we were told it was difficult to grow and propagate. This has not been our experience. Given the proper environment, it grows quite easily and propagation is straightforward. Division is the easiest means of propagation once plants have grown large enough to pull or cut apart and separated into smaller plantlets. Provide moisture and humidity (keep covered), they root easily.

My plant looks like this:

It likely has cyclamen mites. There are many kinds of mites--though not all are harmful, and not all are (easily) visible. Unfortunately, cyclamen mites are very small and are not easily seen. The damage they cause is visible and, when severe, can be quite damaging. Rarely will you know you have them in your collection until some damage has already been done.

These mites feed where it is easiest, on new, tender, growth--like the center of the African violet shown here, or in folds of new growth where they can avoid the brightest of light. They feed by sucking juices from the plant tissue, and inject toxins as they do this which disrupts normal growth. Sizable infestations can cause significant damage to growth, most visible as stunted, distorted, discolored growth. Centers will often look grayish and hairy, then bleached and hardened. Eventually, the entire center of the plant may die.

Cyclamen mites reproduce and develop most rapidly when conditions are relatively cool (approaching 60f degrees) and humid, and less so when conditions are warmer and dry. For this reason, infestations, and damage, may be most noticeable in say, spring or fall, when the environment is both cooler and more humid. At other times, though mites might still be present, their numbers might be small and not very active--though in your collection, you'd be unaware of them and damage would be minimal.


As always, prevention is the best strategy. Most important, never move 'outdoor' plants indoors. Once outside, they should stay there. This is the easiest, and likeliest, means of introducing problems into a collection. Isolate and monitor new material added to your collection. Don't overcrowd plants. Maintain a clean growing area, and a healthy environment--stressed plants are the easiest targets for pests.

If a plant is noticeably damaged, like that shown here, the best solution is to discard it. A large, established, infestation will be difficult to eradicate (or control) otherwise. Once damaged to this extent, a plant like the one shown will not soon look normal. If it's a variety that must be saved, remove a couple of the healthiest leaves, wash well in soap and water, propagate by leaf, then observe plantlets produced. Miticides can be used for treating larger collections, but these can be very costly and (being toxic to varying degrees) need to be used with caution.

This month's questions

I came across your site and was greatly intrigued in the violets you sell. Specifically, three of your variegated varieties. I was wondering if there was a way to receive an image of what they looked like bloomed under normal lighting conditions? The grow lights used give a pinkish hue and I was wondering if the leaves are more white or pink colored.

Bloom colors will always be perceived differently depending upon lighting and background, not to mention the device they are viewed on. As you mentioned, the appearance can seem to change depending upon the light in which it is viewed--the light bulb, window, etc. It's hard to define "normal". When we photograph plants in our shop,



we use lighting as close to "natural daylight" as possible and don't alter or retouch the images--still, background, camera, and viewing device make a difference.

The actual depth and tone of the color will also vary some depending upon environment that the plant is grown in. As a rule, colors tend to be deeper and more intense under cool to moderate temperatures and "good" (intensity and spectrum) light, with proper feeding and care. The variegation in the foliage, white and/or pink, also will change some with environment. Most importantly, temperature. Generally speaking, cooler temps mean better variegation, warmer means less. The "pinkish" tones in the variegation are also partly influenced by lighting (better light means more pink), and the genetics of that particular variety.

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