

# VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

May 2022 - No. 99

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## Our calendar:

**June 7, 2022.** International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of June 13.

**May 26-28, 2022.**  
**AVSA Convention Show.**  
(Inter)national show held this year in Little Rock, Arkansas. For info, visit [avsa.org](http://avsa.org)

**Safe delivery now 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.

## (Some of) What's New:



**K's Unbridled.** Exclusive to the Violet Barn! This is the latest standard hybrid from Kathy Hajner. Crazy colors, and very different. Semidouble frilled violet pansies with purple and white reverse fantasy, and darker centers. Excellent, dark green, quilted foliage that shapes well for show. An unusual, yet easy grower and bloomer. (shipping now, but will also have limited number at AVSA)



**Bristol's Octopi.** Our newest streptocarpus hybrid. A lovely plant with bright, creamy white blooms, heavily overlaid and netted in rosy-pink, then with dark, crimson-red "fleur de lis" throat lined white. Nice, flat, medium green foliage. Easy grower and dependable bloomer.

Check the website for all of the newest varieties.

## What's news:

### Shop visitor hours.

We will be closed to visitors during April and May. We simply are too busy during this peak shipping time and cannot accomodate visitors to the shop. We will reopen to visitors in June, by appointment.

### Inventory updates.

Large wicking pots. These are the larger version of the mini wicking pots that are so popular. Same colors and shape, but large enough to hold a 4" pot, suitable for growing standard size African violets and like sized plants.

### We will be at this year's AVSA show.

We'll have a representative there, a small sales table, and a few plants for the show.

## My plant looks like this:



We received this photo with the question "I bought this plant several years ago. I have never seen a violet with such scalloped leaves before. Is it really a violet?". Yes! It is an African violet and has what is known as "girl" foliage.

The term has nothing to do with whether the plant is a pollen provider or seed producer--African violets can be either or both. The origin of

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**Our shop and glasshouse at:**  
7209 County Road 12  
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**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](http://www.avsa.org)

Has your collection grown far beyond violets? Consider joining the Gesneriad Society. For more info: [www.gesneriadsociety.org](http://www.gesneriadsociety.org)

the term comes from the first variety of its type, "Blue Girl", which appeared in the late 1940's and was a mutation of one of the "original ten" varieties, "Blue Boy", which came to market a decade earlier. "Girl" foliage is typically rounded and deeply scalloped with a lighter spot at the base of the leaf where it joins the petiole. Because it was so different, varieties with girl foliage were fairly popular and much more common years ago--they could easily be found back when we started in the hobby in the early 70's.

As hybridizers introduced varieties with larger, more colorful blooms, some on variegated foliage, oddities like girl foliage became less popular. Varieties with showy blooms on flat growing, manageable, foliage became the norm. Girl foliage, being more unruly, and more difficult to grow as a larger plant, fell out of favor. Still, some can still be found (there are about a half-dozen on our site) and remain a must have in any extensive collection.

When growing girl foliage, it's usually best not to grow too many rows of leaves. This will give leaves more room to fully develop and lay flat. If there is too much foliage, plants can end up looking "cabbage" like, and mounding up. For the same reason, avoid very intense light, or other conditions that would cause growth to be very tight or crowded. Care is otherwise the same, and plants can be quite beautiful with proper maintenance.

**This month's questions**

*I was thinking about getting several trailing African violets. Can I plant them together in a 10" wide, 3" deep pot?*

If all you're concerned about is appearance and the fun of doing this, there's no reason you couldn't. We've done this in past to create "instant" baskets for sale to visitors to our shop, by potting three plants of the same variety in a 6" pot--a "full" plant without the wait (note that this would not be allowed if exhibiting in an AVSA sanctioned show)!

Since trailers will want to spread, they are a good choice to fill the container you have. You would need to be careful, however. Though they will spread, their root system will not grow as deep, so I wouldn't use anything deeper than your 3" container. Depending upon how many plants you are potting in the container, and their size, you'll need to be careful in watering, especially after first potting, since the volume of soil in the container likely will greatly exceed the root system(s) in it. You'll want to water thoroughly, since you have many plants in the pot, but not overwater, which can happen given the size of the pot relative to the plants. Once plants are established, this will be less of a concern. Wish you luck!

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