


# VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

April 2023 - No. 110

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## Our calendar:

### April 18, 2023

International orders must be received by this date for shipment week of April 24.

At this time all orders are guaranteed by any means.

### We want you to succeed!

Plant not growing well? Don't wait until it's too late. Send us a photo and an outline of care and environment. You are not alone--perhaps we can help.

### Having success?

Let us know and share your story.

## Free stuff and how to get it!

### 2023 AVSA Show awards.

Best Robinson collections

1st place: \$200

2nd place: \$100

### Write a review.

Write a review on product pages before ordering. Get a free plant added to order.

## (Some of) What's New:



**K's Sweet Silas.** Exclusive to the Violet Barn, this is the latest new introduction from Kathy Hajner. Semidouble periwinkle blue pansies with white reverse fantasy. Medium green, white, and cream, quilted TL variegated standard foliage.

Check the website for all of the newest varieties.

## What's news:

**Spring is here!** As winter seems finally to be behind us, we can now guarantee safe arrival when shipped by any means. Priority mail (which will save on shipping), is now the default.

**Inventory updates.** Inventory of some items, like standard African violets, will remain limited for the next few months. Inventory of streptocarpus, and other violets, like miniatures and trailing varieties, remains good. Episcias are in short supply at this time, but more will become available by late May.

## My plant looks like this:



An email thread we're repeating here as it's another example of what can be done to succeed with your plants and might be an idea tried by others.

An email received in late January, "Recently, I've moved some of my violets to my work cubical. My office runs 24/7 and the fluorescent lights are on all of the time. The plants really seem hearty and happy but are not blooming. It's been about six weeks since they have been relocated. I'm wondering if African violets require a period of darkness to bloom".

*Our reply: A period of darkness is helpful, but they can bloom even with 24 hours of light. Usually, if plants are not blooming, it is because there is not enough light. If grown under the office ceiling lights only, this will be far too little.*

This week we received the photo shown above, with an update. "A \$20 investment and six weeks later. Great advice!"

## This months questions

## Join AVSA.

See further below in this column.

## Contact us:

email. [comments@violetbarn.com](mailto:comments@violetbarn.com)

mail. POB 9, Naples, NY 14512

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

Sorry, our shop is close to visitors at this time.

## 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)



I love this little violet 'Rob's Sticky Wicket', when it blooms. Lately it has gotten several stem like growth areas, and no flowers. It's in a western window and I do let it dry out between waterings. Is it time to repot? Cut it back?

*This is a trailing variety, so it is natural for it to have "stem like" growth. It will readily branch and spread. This variety will do this better than most. Given that is grown in a window, its recent lack of bloom may be due to the shorter days, and less light, during the winter months.*

*As for what to do, it can be repotted, cut back, or restarted. What exactly is done will depend largely upon what you want to achieve. Because of their natural branching, spreading, habit, trailers can be thought of as a "shrub". Prune it to encourage new growth and a desired form. Like pruning a shrub, cutting it back, or removing growing tips will cause it to more quickly branch and produce new growth lower along the stems. Done thoughtfully, new growth can be encouraged where there is little growth or stems are bare. This will help to "fill in" bare spots.*

*Many exhibitors will take a plant like the one shown here, pot it into a larger, but shallow pot, and pin the stems around the surface of the soil. We done this using very shallow (2-3") pots (or deep saucers with holes drilled into the bottom), pinning stems down with bent paper clips or wire. Place stems evenly in the pot, like spokes on a wheel. Trim or prune away tips of stems to encourage growth lower on the stem. We've taken plants much weedier looking, and had full showplants in 8-10" pots six to nine months later.*

*If you choose to restart the plant, this is easily done by rooting tips, much like you would any other cutting. Cut away the end of a stem, and firm into damp soil, then place in clear container or plastic baggie. Place under moderate light. It will be rooted and can be removed from the container in about 4 weeks.*

Thank you! I received the order and 3 out of 5 are blooming! I was going to repot them and my sister surprised me at Easter with planters that are 6" in diameter and 5" high. Would that be too large? I was thinking about getting 4" pots. I also thought that I could plant two of the plants in one planter? Would that be weird or inappropriate?

*Ideally, the plants you purchased (trailing violets), would go into a 3" pot next, at most a 4" pot if you are careful in watering before they get well established in the larger pot. You can plant more than one in a pot, though each will, in time, fill a larger pot on their own as they grow and spread. What you decide depends upon whether you want immediate gratification or are looking for the best appearance in the long term. (A note: for entering in an AVSA or affiliate show, a trailer must have a minimum of three crowns, but only one planted per pot).*

*However you do this, be sure to use a soil that is very light and porous, containing lots of coarse ingredients like vermiculite and perlite. This is especially important when potting into larger containers where overwatering can be a concern. A good soil can help compensate for watering errors while the plant grows into the larger pot.*

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