

# VioletsFun

Violet Barn newsletter

June 2023 - No. 112

## (Some of) What's New



**K's Sweet Silas.** Lovely semidouble light pink pansies with white eye and purple fantasy. Nice medium green and white, quilted, TL variegated, standard foliage.

Check the website for all of the newest varieties.

## A new look!

You likely have noticed a new look to this newsletter. This format should be MUCH more phone, or small device, friendly (no more expanding to view tiny text and images). It also is a bit smaller in terms of file size--it should load a bit faster and will allow us to include more and higher resolution images, which some of you have requested.

## Display and sale - November 5

Join us for some "Violet Fun" on November 5. Rather than travelling with our plants to a show, we are having the show here. We are currently growing many plants for display, both large (standard violets and streptocarpus) and small (miniatures).

Sales plants will be available displayed, and not displayed, plants--the "show" plants will be for sale as well. Free advice (if requested) and refreshments also provided.

As we've been unable to have regular visitor hours for some time, we hope many of you are able to visit then. We hope to make it worth your time. If you do plan on attending, let us know ([comments@violetbarn.com](mailto:comments@violetbarn.com)) so we can plan accordingly. If you cannot, we hope to do a video tour of the display that will be posted for viewing.

I plan to attend

## My plant looks like this



Actually, this **streptocarpus** has *two* issues. What we most want to show is the brown, crusty appearance to the edges of the younger leaves in the plant center. We received a photo very much like this recently, but couldn't locate it when needed. This plant is one of ours, and since it shows the same symptoms, we're using it here.

It is grown with many others in our entranceway on a light stand which is lit 24 hours a day--hence, the yellowish leaves. This small room has very difficult conditions in many ways, and streps generally tolerate (even thrive) under them. Purely for convenience, the plants are watered by flooding the tray and wetting the blanket the pots sit atop. Watering this way is a compromise. It's easy and fast, but not all plants are ideally watered. Some will get more, some less, than they would prefer. Perfect watering would only be possible if we were to individually water each plant, from the top, making a judgement for each how much water it needs.

To compensate, we use our "**wicking**" soil, which contains plenty of perlite, which should be visible in the photo. Still, plants that have yet to develop a full root system, that can process the volume of water provided, can suffer. This one had only recently been potted up into a larger container. Streps, in particular, don't like to have overly wet "feet". They usually will recover if allowed to wilt from dryness, but if kept too wet, too long, will suffer greatly. This one will recover, and "grow out of it", but not without the damage seen here.

## This month's questions

We are going away for three weeks and I have no one that knows what they're doing to

watch my new little violets. If I water them and put them into a ziplock bag, like a mini greenhouse, would they be OK?

*This should do the trick. Water them so they are moist but not soggy, since they won't dry easily when inside the sealed baggie, and you don't want them to rot. For the same reason, place the plant in light, but not very bright or warm light (certainly not direct sun) so it won't bake inside the bag. Remove any open blooms or buds that might open while you are away. You won't be home to appreciate them, and they would only be one more thing to possible decay and rot inside the baggie.*

I ordered '**Rob's Rinky Dink**'. I would appreciate if you could send me one that will bloom as close to the color in the picture as possible. I've had problems with violets not blooming true to color in the past.

*The color on the website is representative, and was not retouched or altered. However, the appearance will vary in shade, tone, and intensity, sometimes greatly, depending upon a number of factors. The shade and intensity of bloom color will depend somewhat on care and environment. As a rule, colors will be deeper and more intense, and contrast between colors more distinct, when lighting is good, humidity is at least moderate and, especially, when temperatures are a bit cooler. This is why so many show winners are grown in cool basements or, at least, air conditioned rooms (and rarely in a hot greenhouse). That said, some varieties won't show proper coloring if grown too cool--a lot of the "thumbprint" blooms, for example.*

*There is also the problem of "perceived" color--how it appears to you. Proper blossom colors may appear differently based upon the conditions in which it is being viewed. Lighting plays a huge role in this. The perceived color can change greatly depending upon the color spectrum of the light. Some light bulbs/fixtures produce more "bluish" (cooler) light, other fixtures more "reddish" (warmer) light--"natural" light falls somewhere in between. Ever notice how you look better (or worse) in some mirrors? Probably has more to do with the lighting than the mirror itself. Your plant looking more colorful may be simply a matter of moving it under a different light source.*

*A similar, but related effect ("**simultaneous contrast**") is that of background. The same color, in the same light, may appear differently simply because of its setting. We don't alter the colors in our photos, but do choose what backgrounds in which to photograph the plants (or is out of our control if taken at a show). Though the actual blossom color won't change, it does affect the ability of camera, and the viewer's eyes, to perceive the color. We do this all of the time when choosing what to wear or how to decorate the home--some colors just look better together! Lastly, what's seen on the website will depend a bit on the technology involved--our camera, computer and software, and your monitor.*

*This is the nature of all colors of blooms, but particularly "reds" and "blues". In the case of '**Rob's Rinky Dink**', this means it may appear pinker than on the site, or more purplish. Of course, (genetic) mutations are always possible. If there is a great difference in color (not just intensity or shade), for example, your plant is white, or not just purple-"ish" but more a black-purple, then this is likely the case. We do guarantee that the first bloom on plants we ship is true to description--is "normal" for the variety.*

## Calendar

### June 20, 2023

International orders must be received by this date for shipment week of June 26.

### July 6-8, 2023

#### Gesneriad Society Convention

Richmond, VA. See: [gesneriadsociety.org](http://gesneriadsociety.org)

### November 5, 2023

Display and sale at the Violet Barn, all are welcome. Exhibition plants and much more for sale.

## Contact us

**Email:** [comments@violetbarn.com](mailto:comments@violetbarn.com)

**Mail:** PO Box 9, Naples, NY 14512

**Phone:** 585-374-8592 (M-S 12-5 ET)

Sorry, we're currently closed to visitors

## Notes

### 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.

### Write a review get a free plant

Write a review on the product pages of our website before ordering. Get a free plant added to your order.

### Place a pickup order!

For those in the area, we offer pickup service. Save on shipping and we'll have your plants waiting for you.

[More info...](#)

## Are you a member?

### **African Violet Society of America**

Sign up through our website and get a free plant added to order! More info: [avsa.org](https://avsa.org)

### **Gesneriad Society**

Has your collection grown far beyond violets? Consider joining the Gesneriad Society. More info: [gesneriad.society.org](https://gesneriad.society.org)

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