

VioletsFun

Violet Barn newsletter

August 2023 - No. 114



(Some of) What's New

Hunter's Chipmunk Cheeks. Lovely new seminiature with semidouble white pansies and pink eye. Medium green foliage. Easy grower and very prolific bloomer.

Hunter's Whitetail Fawn. Another new semimini with double white pansies and blue eye. Medium green, pointed, foliage. Another easy grower and very profuse bloomer.

Check the website for all of the newest varieties.

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 of the displayed, and not displayed, plants--the "show" plants will be for sale as well (at shop--sorry we cannot ship them). 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 cannot, we hope to do a video tour of the display that will be posted for viewing subsequent to the event. If you plan on making the trip to attend, help us to plan accordingly and rsvp via the button below:

[I plan to be there](#)

News and updates:

Primulina (formerly chirita) are back! We have recently expanded our listing of these gesneriads and have a good inventory of most. Some are new to cultivation and have been listed for the first time on our site.

We're back on facebook! For many reasons, we haven't been active on facebook for some time, and hadn't posted or updated our page. We've begun doing so again, and hope to continue this going forward. Like this newsletter, we try to keep things light, fun, and plant related. That said, should you have any questions concerning an order or need care advice, it's always best to do so directly with us via email or phone--we can respond to you directly and more quickly.

Ohio State AVS Convention show. We will be attending this year's show at the Kingwood Center, in Mansfield. We will have our sales table, and there should be many beautiful plants to be seen in the show, not to mention on the grounds of Kingwood!

My plants look like this



For awhile, my African violets were doing great. They're growing and blooming, and looking wonderful. Lately, they look like this. What am I doing wrong? They're still growing and blooming, but the leaves look horrible.

It looks generally healthy, so your care and environment must be good. You can do a few things, though. First, remove some of the older leaves. Always remove oldest (lowest on stem) leaves first, when they are unsightly or you just have too many. Grown as a houseplant, it shouldn't need more than perhaps 15 leaves maximum--4 or 5 "rows". More leaves won't mean more blooms, as the plant will

mostly bloom from new growth anyway--usually the first 2 or 3 rows.

As you remove leaves, over time your plant will develop at bare trunk or "neck". By repotting regularly, at least every 9 to 12 months, you will have a chance to **lower the plant in its pot and bury/cover this neck**. Repotting doesn't always mean a larger pot--no larger than 4 or 5" when grown as a houseplant, just fresh soil.

Your plant may also need dividing (it's hard to tell from photo) if it has more than one crown, or growing point (more than one "head"). If this is the case, separate the crowns and pot each separately into their own pot. Use a pot not much larger than it's root system. As it grows larger, you can repot into a larger pot as needed. Going forward, remove suckers (the tiny beginnings of a new plantlet that appears between leaves) as they appear. This will encourage the plant to bloom more and will avoid it developing into a large double-headed plant.

Note: click on links in text for more detailed discussion.

This month's question



I thought you might want this as a question for your site. This is an unknown standard African violet that I purchased at a greenhouse. The trunk is twisty and the soil is tired. I'd like to propagate it. It might be a chimera of some type. I took a leaf cutting twice. The first was identical, but was white. The second try produced white flowers with purple spots, not so attractive. I did notice the mother plant has a plantlet at the base of the main stem. If I root this, should it keep the "purpleness", or do you think it will revert to white? I was also planning on rerooting the main stem to make it less snake-like.

It may or may not be a "chimera". More likely it began as plant with a multicolor bloom of some sort (white and purple), that is unstable and has mutated ("sported") to a solid color--in this case, purple. My guess is that if you were to leaf propagate the white version, you will get mostly white flowered plants. If propagating the purple version, you will get mostly purple flowered plants. The sprout could be either, the odds are it will be much like the main plant it is growing from.

*This is a good question, though. Most any violet is at least a bit genetically variable--multicolors are more so. This instability has worked in our favor over time, allowing hybridizers and growers use this to their advantage in producing so many unusual and different varieties. Amazing, considering the original *Saintpaulia* species were all, basically, shades of one lavender/purplish color. Most violets can be propagated true to the donor plant by leaf cutting, as any leaf cutting should have the same genetic makeup as any other, with some small variability (like your plant). For solid, uncomplicated, colors, the variability is small, and most all plants will look like the donor. For more complicated color combinations, like "fantasies" (spots or streaks of a different color) or other multicolors, the variability is greater.*

*Chimeras are a special case--they cannot be propagated true by leaf cutting, as the genetic makeup of an individual leaf differs from that of the growing point of the plant. Because of this, chimeras are typically **propagated by suckers** produced from the center of the donor plant (the center is removed and rooted to encourage this), or the **flower stems** themselves. As for "**rerooting**" the main stem, a good "how to" lesson can be found on our plant care pages.*

Note: click on links in text for more detailed discussion.

Calendar

September 7, 2023, 7 pm.

Meeting AVGS Rochester

Messiah Lutheran Church, 4301 Mt Read Blvd, Rochester, NY. New members and guests welcome! *Program: Sowing gesneriad seeds.*

August 22, 2023

International orders must be received by this date for shipment week of August 28.

September 15-16, 2023

Ohio State AVS Convention

Kingwood Gardens, Mansfield Ohio.

November 5, 2023

Notes



Follow us on facebook!

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

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

Contact us

Email: 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

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

Gesneriad Society

Has your collection grown far beyond violets? Consider joining the Gesneriad Society. More info: gesneriad.society.org

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