

VioletsFun

Violet Barn newsletter

September 2023 - No. 115



(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.

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.

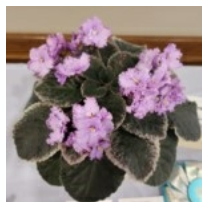
As we've been unable to have regular visitor hours for some time, we hope many of you are able to visit then. We hope to make it worth your time. If you cannot, we hope to do a video tour of the display that will be posted for viewing subsequent to the event. If you plan on making the trip to attend, help us to plan accordingly and rsvp via the button below:

[I plan to be there](#)

News and updates:

Sinningia are back. These returned to our shopping cart pages in the last month or so, and we've been updating the inventory as more become available. We are currently able to ship plants with mature tubers, so they are very well established. Sorry, but it will likely be winter or early spring before we have miniature sinningias listed.

Ohio State AVS Convention Show



We just returned from this years show in Mansfield. Held every year at the Kingwood Center, it is one of our favorite shows to attend. The gardens and grounds are beautiful and the setting relaxing and enjoyable.

There were a number of beautiful entries in the show. The best in show, "Hunter's Kashmir" can be seen at left. **'Jolly Orchid'** a miniature, shown at right. To view more of the exhibits, visit our [Facebook page](#).

Great idea!



This great idea came from Maxie Ramey, and is a solution to a problem many growers using our "mini wicking pots" encounter. The template can be found on her etsy page if interested.

She says, "Hi! I wanted to share with you how my mini violets are showing off! I have them in the clear plastic self-watering pots you offer, and the green algae was growing faster than I cared to clean it out, so I made wooden sleeves for the pots. I love my little violets so much. I also posted a video on your facebook page of my unboxing because I was so impressed with how they were packaged!"

As standing water in bright light will inevitably lead to some algae growth, blocking the light is a good solution. Making it decorative is clever. Should you not want to do this, adding a drop of *Physan 20* (we use this to control algae on our capillary mats) or dish soap to the water can help as well.

This month's questions

I just received my new plants. I was all prepared to plant them immediately, as I have done in the past, but the instructions explicitly state NOT to do so. I was surprised as I believe this is a new instruction. We're leaving soon for vacation for two weeks. I have the self-watering AV pots which can sustain them for two weeks. What do you recommend is the timeframe before repotting? Will they last two weeks without water? Or should I go ahead and plant them?

You're very observant! We added those instructions because we've had some customers kill plants unnecessarily by repotting them poorly or so soon. Though we pack carefully and try to minimize this, shipping can be stressful, and a more developed plant will better tolerate any repotting mistakes. Better to let the new plant grow a bit under your conditions and care. When you see that it's well established in the pot, and has grown some under your care, it can be repotted.

Self-watering pots can be tricky--because they keep your plants wet all of the time, the plant must have an established root system to use all of the water provided it, which it will have a hard time doing immediately after repotting. The roots need some time to reestablish themselves in the soil. Best to water moderately from the top (when surface is dry to the touch) until you see new growth (which indicates new root growth as well), then place on reservoir.

Unless you've done this before with success, would suggest you simply keep the plants in the current pots, water them well, then place in an enclosed container of clear bag, in some light (not direct or hot...don't want them to rot). Remove the open blooms, as they may rot in the bag, and you won't be home to see them anyway. They won't dry out much, if at all, over the two weeks you are away.

I hope you can help me with my violets. They are all purchased from your site. I have repotted them from 2" to 4" pots. They are watered from below in pots designed to hold water in the outer pot. I keep them damp so they are not needing to be watered. They live in the bathroom with good light. My problem is that two of the violets have very tight new growth in the crowns, while the outer leaves are wilted. Any advice would be greatly appreciated.

*The photo is hard to view, but it appears the plants in question are the petrocosmea you ordered, not African violets. **Petrocosmea** are very shallow rooted (its genus name derived from the Latin for "pretty" and "rock") that can be found growing on limestone or shaded rocks in their natural setting. They also can be sensitive to repotting and even more sensitive to very wet soil or heavy soil. A soil with a lot of coarse ingredients, like perlite, is beneficial. They certainly don't need 4" pots as their root systems are very small. We would suggest putting them into smaller pots and keeping the soil just moist by top watering until they recover and grow substantially. The "wilted" outer leaves are likely the result of the pot size and watering. Most will never grow very large, so will rarely need a pot as large as 4"--likely a 3" pot at most.*

Most petrocosmea do grow "tight" in the crowns. This is entirely normal for them--it would be unusual if this were not the case. This, and the fact that they almost always grow very symmetrically with neatly overlapping leaves, is part of their charm. They don't need very strong light as well, the same as for violets or maybe a bit less. Given too much light, growth might be even tighter or more crowded.

Calendar

October 5, 2023, 7 pm.

Meeting AVGS Rochester

Messiah Lutheran Church, 4301 Mt Read Blvd, Rochester, NY. Octobers's program; sowing gesneriad seeds. New members and guests welcome!

October 3, 2023

International orders must be received by this date for shipment week of October 9.

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?

SOctober 20-21 , 2023

NY State AVS Convention

Hilton Garden Inn, Auburn, NY. *Sorry, we attend, but won't be selling.*

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

Mail: PO Box 9, Naples, NY 14512

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

Sorry, we're currently closed to visitors

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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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