

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

June 2016 - No. 28

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Our calendar:

July 4, 2016.

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of July 11.

July 8-9, 2016.

Gesneriad Society Convention
60th Annual convention and show at the DoubleTree Downtown in Wilmington, Delaware. For more info: www.gesneriadsociety.org

Free stuff and how to get it!

2017 AVSA Show awards.

Best Robinson collections
1st place: \$200
2nd place: \$100

Congratulations to this year's winner, Anne Nicholas of Texas!

Write a review.

Write a review before ordering, good or bad, we'd like to know. Get a free plant added to order.

Problem ordering?

Those who have ordered and/or created an account after February of this year may experience problems if they attempt to order while logged in (a technical issue on our end).

For these customers, please order *without* logging in and there should be no issues.

Those with accounts created prior to February should notice no difference in the ordering process.



(Some of) What's New:

RS Birth of Dawn. New Russian hybrid with semidouble pale pink stars spotted with raspberry fantasy. Medium green, standard foliage.

EK Black Fire. Another Russian hybrid with semidouble hot-hot fuchsia-pink stars having a lighter center. Dark green, standard foliage.

Bristol's Clam Digger. New streptocarpus. Lots of bright pink semidouble blooms with cherry throat and rays from center. A constant and free bloomer. A bit larger grower that can be quite spectacular.

K Mischievous Child. (not pictured) New Russian standard African violet. Large blue stars over dark green, quilted foliage. Easy grower and good bloomer.

What's News:

Why so long to receive this newsletter?

For the past 9 months or so, we have had issues with our internet service. Our connection would be irregular, and we'd be without service for long periods of time during the day (making our internet based business difficult, to say the least). This made e-mailing *VioletsFun* difficult to impossible. We've recently resolved this issue and hope to resume regular publication.

Website redesign.

In early February both our website and shopping cart pages were redesigned. Both should be more phone and tablet-friendly and visually appealing. If you haven't visited lately, you may want to again. There are a few minor issues to resolve (see above and at left), but we hope to deal with these soon. Thanks for everyone's patience and understanding!

This month's question:

I'm hoping that you can help me with a problem that I'm having with a few of my streps. The leaves are browning at the sides (not the tips) toward the base and the veins on the top of the leaf are purplish colored. It seems to be most affecting my streps with red flowers, such as *Bristol's Boo Boo* and *Bristol's Hot Rod*.

I grow these under a 4-tube fluorescent light setup (T8 bulbs) that is about 14-16" above the plants. I water them only when they are approaching dryness and my temps never

Contact us:

go above 72F. I keep them under cover to keep humidity high. I water with a 6-4-5 fertilizer (1/4 strength) every 2 weeks.

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Mon. thru Sat., 12-5 pm ET

Our shop and glasshouse at:

7209 County Road 12
Naples, New York 14512
Open Tuesday-Saturday 12-5 pm

You seem to be providing them good care, and I appreciate the detailed information--this makes a diagnosis (or attempted one) easier. The reddish coloring in the leaves is, I'm pretty certain, due to the very bright light you're providing them. Four T8 bulbs is VERY bright. They will bloom with half this much light. Some varieties, and these two are good examples, will show the reddish coloring more than others--much like a person's "freckles" are more noticeable when out in the sun a lot.

The remainder of your care seems good (though the high humidity isn't necessary, it won't hurt), and if the plants are otherwise happy, growing and blooming, there's no need to change. Strops are quite tolerant of a wide range of conditions, which makes them a good choice for most indoor gardens.

Planning a visit?

Summer is a good time to visit as we have plenty of plants for sale. We try to have a good selection of varieties in bloom, but we do limit the amount of bloom on our plants in the summer (i.e. we remove excess flowers).

We attempt to have only enough plants in bloom that can be expected to sell at any given time. This makes maintaining plants in the summer easier, while those that we do allow to bloom are fresher and more attractive.

Some summertime tips:

Pests can be a particular problem in the summer. Here's a few things to keep in mind:

- Plants grown outside should stay outside.
- Some pests, like thrip, are small enough to go through window screens--are plants outside your open window likely to harbor pests like these? Don't let weeds grow wild just outside of windows.
- After working outside, wash hands and change clothes, if needed before working on indoor plants.
- Where has the family pet been? Has anything 'hitched a ride' inside?
- Keep plants groomed and free of dead flowers or leaves.
- Most pests have shorter life cycles and reproduce quickly in warmer temps--both you and your plants will be happier out of the heat!
- Don't neglect your plants and inspect them regularly. Healthy, well-cared for plants are less likely to have problems and are a less-inviting target for pests.

Are you an AVSA member?

Consider joining! Sign up through our website and get a free plant! For more information, visit www.avsa.org