

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

September 2016 - No. 31

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Our calendar:

September 26, 2016.

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of October 3.

September 16-17, 2016.

Ohio State AVS Show

Held at the Kingwood Center in Mansfield. For more info, see:

www.osavs.org

October 21-22, 2016.

New York State AVS Show

Ronkonkoma, NY at Clarion Inn and Conference Center.

Free stuff and how to get it!

2017 AVSA Show awards.

Best Robinson collections

1st place: \$200

2nd place: \$100

Write a review.

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



[Eucodonia hybrid #3](#)

We now have them for sale! A



What's a 'micro' miniature violet?

AVSA classifies violets as standard (mature plants with diameter in excess of 8", leaf tip to leaf tip), semiminature (6-8") and miniature (under 6"). These classifications are made based upon the hybridizer's (or registrant's) original description of the variety. In practice, many varieties may grow well outside of these dimensions, or may overlap categories. Environment, care, and the genetics of each variety play a role.

Of course, unless you intend to exhibit your violets, the precise classification isn't so important. Mostly, it is a guideline telling you how you can expect your plant to grow. "[Microminiature](#)" is an unofficial, but often used, term used for the smallest of the miniatures--varieties that typically don't grow larger than 3" in diameter.

Again, it's important to consider genetics and environment. A true micromini should *want* to grow small by nature. This means that many violets sold as microminis in 1" thumb pots are not, in fact, micros. It is not their genetic nature to be that small--their size may be the result of being so pot bound! The plants shown at top, for example, are true microminis, as they barely grow over the rim of a 2" pot even though the pot is more than large enough for their root ball. (Shown left to right are '[Rob's Bunny Hop](#)', '[Rob's June Bug](#)', and '[SK First Love](#)').

Regular and proper grooming helps keep minis tidy and pretty, as well as encouraging them not to grow too large. Remove suckers and excess, older, leaves. Violets tend to bloom from the top three rows of leaves, so having more than 4-5 rows of leaves is unnecessary--especially if the point is growing them small! This will promote growth of smaller leaves, not just smaller diameter.

Provide good light, and don't crowd your violets on the shelf or windowsill. Most minis will prefer a bit more light than the larger standard violets, and if you treat them like weeds, they will grow weeds. Don't force an otherwise small-growing plant to stretch for light or push aside neighboring plants for valuable growing space.

If you propagate your violets, you can keep your favorite minis small by selecting leaves to root from the smallest, nicest plants. Many of the semiminis we grow now actually grow more like small miniatures because we've done this. '[Rob's Fuddy Duddy](#)' for example, first registered as a semimini, now never grows much larger than about 3-4" for us. We're especially selective in the leaves we choose to propagate for microminis.

wonderful little rhizomatous plant with long lasting, pale orchid blooms and fuzzy, medium green foliage. A small grower, the photo shows many planted in a shallow dish. Individually, can easily be grown in a 2 or 2.5" pot.

A public service message:

September 17, 2016.

Inaugural meeting of Copper State AVC at Yucca Branch of Phoenix public library from 10am to noon. For more info:

copperstateavc@gmail.com

Contact us:

email. comments@violetbarn.com

mail. POB 9, Naples, NY 14512

phone. 585-374-8592
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

Hot or not--we still ship.

Guaranteed safe delivery. We'll provide tracking information and tell you when package should arrive.

Certainly, not everyone enjoys, or can succeed with such small plants. It may simply be difficult to handle and care for such small plants in small pots. But they can be perfect for a small space, a small container, or small planting. For more growing advice and information, visit the "[plant care](#)" pages of our site.

Inventory updates:

[Standard 'dandy pots'](#) are back! Finally received a new shipment of these popular self-watering pots. Available in four colors, or save money and let us choose.

We realize that selection of standard African violets has been more limited than usual. This will change soon--likely within next week when we update inventory. Inventory on the site is accurate--if you see it, we have it. No need to list substitutes--we don't list plants we don't have in stock.

This month's question:

What is the difference between powdery mildew and mold? I've had centers turn gray and limp in two days.

This may be splitting hairs, but mildew is a milder, more easily dealt with, kind of mold. 'Powdery' mildew will typically appear on surface of plant leaves or blooms and is easily treated. Mold is more substantial, more visible, and thicker, often appearing on soil surface. Powdery mildew can appear with air is stagnant and the air temperature drops significantly at night. Mold usually appears as the result of damp conditions--like when the soil is kept constantly wet. This excess moisture can collect in the plant center (like 'dew') and you can see the problems you describe, especially if air is stagnant and/or humidity is high--things that tend to keep plant and soil wet.

Are you an AVSA 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

