

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

January 2017 - No. 35

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Our calendar:

January 31, 2017.

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of February 6.

February 23-26, 2017.

CT Flower & Garden Show

At the CT Convention Center in Hartford. Booths 800, 802. Info: www.ctflowershow.com

Winter shipping now applies!

Safe delivery guaranteed only via *Express mail*.

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.

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

Are you a member?



(Some of) What's "New":

Ma's Cosmic Paradise. Striking, fully double, white star with bright pink side stripes splashed blue fantasy. Dark green, quilted, standard foliage. Limited quantities.

Fred's Yellow Wine. A real eye-catching streptocarpus. Bright red upper lobes, even brighter yellow lower lobes. Plenty of blooms held on short stems above foliage. Easy grower and prolific bloomer.

What's news: Photo contest!



Send us your photo of a plant (or plants) purchased from us, or listed on our catalog. They can be pictured in a home setting of your choice, at an exhibition, staged or unstaged.

First prize: \$50 Second prize: \$10

Contest details and rules at www.violetbarn.com/contest
Send your entries to contest@violetbarn.com

Look through your phone or on your digital camera! Or go to your growing area and take a picture! *Entry deadline is February 10, 2017.* If there is sufficient interest, we'll make this a regular feature.

This month's questions:

I bought my collection of violets from you this spring and they have been doing great until recently. I have them all on a baker's rack in front of an east-facing window. Some of them are losing leaves and one bud on a stalk will open up but the rest of the buds don't develop. Are they not getting enough light? It is the only window in the house that they all fit in. Maybe grow lights? We live in northwestern Washington and get a lot of overcast days. On hot sunny summer days I had sheer curtains drawn and moved the rack back several inches from the window.

(Note: received this email in mid November and thought it appropriate for this time of year). Days are much shorter now, so you are likely right to guess that the lack of blooming is due to the (lack of) light. Losing leaves is another symptom, and is normal and expected--even on a growing, blooming, plant you can expect to remove outer, older, leaves as the plant grows. Of course, these can also be symptoms of other issues--have you repotted them since spring? Are they properly (not over) watered? Are there pest issues? That said, the lack of light is certainly the most likely explanation.

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

Has your collection grown far beyond violets? Consider joining the Gesneriad Society. For more info: www.gesneriadsociety.org

Artificial light is always advantageous, simply because you can control it and the plant is not entirely at the mercy of Mother Nature and your climate. The more you can provide sufficient light, on a consistent basis, the more regular will be the flowering of your plants. Bottom line: better light means better blooming.

I've used up the wicking that came with the pot I bought from you in the past. I don't see it listed. Do you still sell it? Can you recommend what to buy and where I can find it?

We've never sold just the "wicks" since it's so easy to find the material elsewhere. Any man-made, absorbent, material will work. We simply use nylon string/twine or acrylic yarn, but anything similar will do. Some growers will cut old panty hose, or the like, into strips. When using the wick for the first time, or after it's been dry for awhile, pre-wet it to initiate the wicking action. Make sure older, used, wicks are clean and aren't clogged with fertilizer or hard water deposits as well.

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