

# VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

December 2017 - No. 46

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## (Some of) What's New:

For best results, view in HTML



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### Our calendar:

#### December 16, 2017

Midnight of this date is deadline to place orders for arrival before Christmas, when sent by Express mail!

#### January 3, 2018.

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of January 9.

#### May 25-26, 2018.

#### AVSA/AVSC Convention Show.

In Buffalo, New York, at the Adams Mark Hotel. Jointly held national conventions of African Violet Societies of America and Canada!

Mark your calendar! This is *the* event of a lifetime. Exhibitors and vendors from across North America will be there. We will have showplants, display, and sales booth. For more info: [www.avsa.org](http://www.avsa.org) or [www.avsc.ca](http://www.avsc.ca)

#### Winter shipping now applies!

Safe delivery on orders shipped prior to April 1 guaranteed only by *Express mail*.

#### Free stuff and how to get it!

#### 2018 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.



**RS Caesar.** (RS Tsezar') New Russian variety with large, double white and deep orchid stars. Medium green, standard foliage.

**RS Pharoah.** (RS Faraon) Another new Russian variety. Very large double deep fuchsia stars over dark, pointed, quilted, standard foliage. (limited supply)

### What's News:

#### Last minute holiday shopping?

For arrival before December 25, orders must be received no later than midnight, December 16. Timely and safe arrival guaranteed only by Express mail.

#### How about a gift certificate? A special offer.

Miss our deadline? We can email a gift certificate within 24 hours to your recipient--just provide their email address when ordering.

Purchase a gift certificate in December and have a free plant added when redeemed on any order shipped prior to April 1, 2018 (still valid after that time, but without the free plant).

#### This month's questions:

I have a large streptocarpus that blooms nicely but the ends of the large leaves turn brown and dry. The plant overall seems healthy since it blooms so frequently, but I'm wondering if there is any tip to keep the foliage more attractive?

(and a related question...) The last time I ordered streps, some of the leaves had been trimmed. I do trim leaves on my larger streps when the ends turn brown from the sun, etc. I find that these leaves continue to deteriorate. Some of the streps I ordered did the same. If I order again, can I get them without having trimmed leaves?

*We can't promise this, since this is our normal routine. Very simply, streps have long leaves, and it's usually necessary to do this to package them and fit them in the box for shipping. Trimming leaves should have no effect on the health of the plant--there is another issue causing the problems.*

*We routinely trim leaves on both our younger and mature plants. If you look closely at those pictured on our website, you'll notice that most have had their leaves trimmed. For one thing, this allows us to fit more plants into a limited growing space. This practice is even allowed on streps being exhibited--so long as it is attractively done, a plant won't be penalized a plant just for having trimmed leaves. You'll frequently see such beautiful plants displayed in these shows.*

**Contact us:**

**email.** [comments@violetbarn.com](mailto: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

*Shop and glasshouse open to  
public Weds-Saturday, 12-5 pm*

For those attending the 2018  
AVSA/AVSC convention, we are a  
2 hour drive from Buffalo.

**Are you a 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](http://www.avsa.org)

Has your collection grown far  
beyond violets? Consider joining  
the Gesneriad Society. For more  
info: [www.gesneriadsociety.org](http://www.gesneriadsociety.org)

*There can be many causes for browned edges or tips on strep leaves, and it's normal for very old leaves to look unsightly at some point. If you see this on new, younger, growth, then I would be more concerned. Besides age, any kind of stress can cause this. Excessive light can cause not only brown edges, but a reddening of leaves on some varieties. Dryness or wilting, heat, very dry air, or overfeeding can also be a cause.*

*Streps will also need repotting, at least once a year. Because streps don't like to be overwatered, it's best not to overpot them. Because they grow quickly, they can become pot bound--if very pot bound, brown tips or edges on leaves can be a symptom. We repot ours every 6 to 9 months, at which time we will divide larger plants, remove a lot of the older, often 'woody' growth, and provide fresh soil. Don't use a pot more than one size up from the size of the root ball.*

*Don't be squeamish about removing leaves and "thinning" the plant out. Once a mature leaf has produced multiple bloom stems, there's no reason to keep it on the plant if it looks out of place or doesn't look lush. We have a saying here, "if the old (leaves) don't go, the young (leaves) won't grow".*

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