

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

March 2018 - No. 49

For best results, view in HTML

(Some of) What's New:



'Like' us on Facebook!

Our calendar:

March 27, 2018.

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of April 2.

March 8-11, 2018.

Rochester GardenScape.

Flower and garden show at the Dome arena in Henrietta, NY. See us at booth #69.

Info: rochesterflowershow.com

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 or www.avsc.ca

Winter shipping still 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



Bristol's Baba Blue. New streptocarpus. Lots of large, happy, periwinkle-blue blooms with two white eyes on dark purple throat. Great bloomer and easy grower that stays fairly compact.

What's News:

We're now accepting PayPal! After many requests to do so, we have begun accepting payment by this popular service in addition to other major credit cards or mail with check options.

Connecticut Flower & Garden Show. Another successful show at the CT Convention Center in Hartford. Nice landscape displays and, as always, beautiful designs from the Federated Garden Clubs of CT. Check out our '[facebook](#)' page to view photos from the show.

Winter's "icy grip" returns. After a brief period of mild weather, winter returned with a vengeance last week, dumping 18" of snow and ice on us in a 24 hour period. We were without electricity for three days. We replaced our old generator a month ago, thank goodness. The new one certainly got a workout. The plants haven't been happy with the more limited light, but if we were ever to lose heat, we'd soon be out of business....tropical plants can be fussy about things like that.

This month's questions:

I started leaves in soil 9 months ago. Leaves seem happy but no plantlets. I have not had them under plastic. Should I just be more patient or give up on them? Also, I have pots that are self-watering, meaning they have water below that soaks into the upper pot. A white residue collects on the surface of the dirt and looks toxic. Does it really hurt anything?

Your leaf cuttings should have produced plantlets by now. If they were old (taken from the outer leaves of a large plant), they can be a bit woody/tough, and won't produce plantlets as easily. It is always best to use younger (but still mature) leaves that are a bit more tender. These will root and produce plantlets more quickly.

As for the "white residue", this is most likely just the salts and minerals from the water and soil leaching upwards to the soil surface. This can be particularly evident if you have "hard" water or haven't repotted the plant (changed soil) in some time. This is one of the drawbacks of this kind of watering system, since the soil is always wet and there

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

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

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

is no means for the water to drain these salts out of the soil, as would be the case with top watering.

My episcia is large and pretty and many offshoots are hanging. Then the plant starts dying where it is bent over the pot rim. How can I grow a large pot of this when it starts dying when it gets large. Is there a certain type of pot I should use?

There isn't any particular type of pot, and there should be no reason for it to die at a certain size or age. Assuming the environment and care is no different when it is large or small, the pot size itself might be an issue. Be sure that your plant is not overpotted--use a pot size only one size larger than the root ball. Also, since episcias tend to grow "wide" rather than deep, a shallower pot may be best. This will give the stolons some soil surface on which to root, as well.

Keep in mind that, even though episcias are relatively fast growers, they do need to be groomed. It's okay to remove some older growth and stolons, if they aren't attractive. If anything, this will encourage the plant to bloom more--if you have too many stolons, it has less incentive to bloom.

I have a nice "baby" leaf from my leaf cutting about 12 weeks old. When do I cut off the "mother" leaf?

You needn't cut the mother leaf at all. It can remain attached until you're ready to pot up the small plantlet.

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