

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

January 2019 - No. 59

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Our calendar:

February 5, 2019.

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

February 21-24, 2019.

CT Flower & Garden Show.

Visit us at booths 800,802. More info: ctflowershow.com

Free stuff and how to get it!

Write a review.

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

Winter shipping now applies!

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

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 to public Wed-Fri., 12-5 pm

(Some of) What's New:



Bristol's Mascara. Stunning new streptocarpus! A real favorite of ours. Large, lightly fringed, bright white blooms thickly edged in blackish purple, held on stiff stems. Compact grower with easy, flat growing, foliage. Easy bloomer.

LE Chantel. New Russian hybrid. Lovely, fully double, frilled, white carnation blooms with touches and mottling of rose-fuchsia, hints of green on edges. Medium green, ruffled, foliage. Standard.

What's news:

Inventory update.

Our "seller's choice" special for [terrarium plants](#) is again available. We also expect to have a full listing of sinningias in another month or so and will have a limited listing until then. We've been busy growing plants in preparation for early spring. More updates will follow.

Change in shop visitor hours.

To allow us to "catch up" on our propagation and growing, the shop and glasshouse will remain closed on Saturdays through February. We remain open to visitors Wed-Fri 12 to 5 pm.

"Winter shipping" in effect.

We continue to ship anywhere, anytime, but from now until April 1, winter shipping applies, and safe delivery is guaranteed only when shipped by Express mail.

This month's questions:

Can African violets survive being left "home alone" for three months in a house at 45f degrees? They will be watered.

They may survive, but barely, so wouldn't recommend it. Some of the Saintpaulia species, especially those native to higher elevations, can be quite tolerant, and even prefer, cooler temperatures. Most, however, and most of our modern hybrids, wouldn't be very happy. As a rule, African violets would like the same temperatures that we do--

65f to 75f degrees seems about optimal. Like people, they will tolerate temperatures outside of this range, but don't prefer it.

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 on AVSA, visit www.avsa.org

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

Below about 60f degrees, most violets will simply stop growing. The plants will *look* like they are cold--leaves will become tighter and bunched in center and thicker and more hairy than normal. Blooms will be sparse, if any, though the blooms you do see may be more colorful than usual. Because they will grow so slowly, if at all, you likely won't have to water much. Overwatering could be an issue without accounting for this.

If you have a small number of plants, and can grow them under lights, you can place them all together and "tent" them, using plastic sheeting (or cut up garbage bags). This will retain the heat from the lights and may be enough, even if the rest of the room is much colder. Remove blooms and buds, and prune the plants back a bit, so you won't have to deal with an overgrown jungle (if they like things too much) when you return.

I've ordered three of the smaller "dandy" pots to try for wick watering. I just want to confirm that the wick provided will be the correct size for my minis.

Yes. The wick needn't be very large for such a small pot. If you wish, you can use a larger wick (any man-made, absorbent material will do), or multiple wicks. The pot (the plant and soil in the pot) will only draw as much water as needed. It's best to err on the side of too large a wick for this reason. More important is your choice of potting mix. It should be very coarse, light, and porous, containing at least 50% perlite. The rule of thumb: the wetter the soil, the coarser the mix (more perlite).

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