

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

April 2019 - No. 62

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Our calendar:

April 30, 2019

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

May 30 - June 1, 2019.

AVSA Convention Show.

(Inter)national show of the African Violet Society of America, held in Houston, TX. Info: www.avsa.org

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.

Join AVSA! See our note below.

Contact us:

email. comments@violetbarn.com

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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
Saturdays by appointment.

What's New (or returning):



Diastema comiferum. Unusual because of its bright orange-re blooms and easy growth habit. Rhizomatous, with dark, bronze-green, papery foliage, quilted and serrated. Excellent miniature specimen for terrariums and other small containers (limited number available).

Nautilocalys pemphidius. Beautiful, dark, khaki-green, heavily pebbled, strap like leaves that grow nicely in rosette. Small plant that produces small white blooms in center of plant. Requires humid environment, like a terrarium, to grow well.

Pachycaulus nummularia. (formerly Neomoronia) Adorable, little plant with tiny, round, leaves on thick, woody, stems and orange-red blooms. Tiny plant perfect for containers. Blooms on older growth.

Many more! These are just *some* of the new varieties that have been listed (or relisted) in the past month.

What's news:

Episcias are back! We now have a good listing of episcias available for sale. We are gradually adding to our inventory of miniature terrarium and houseplants as well. More should be added over the next month or so.

This month's questions:

How frequently can I repot an AV? I repotted mine 3 months ago but realized that the pot is too big and I want to pot down, but is it too soon? Secondly, I've kept it in a plastic bag the past few months and it looks nice and happy, but when I tried to remove it, the leaves all drooped. (so I put it back). Is the difference in humidity too much?

It's best to repot your plants when they need it. If they grow quickly, this can be as little as three months, but is usually longer, and should be done at least once a year.

Whether potting "up" (to a larger pot) or "down", use a pot only slightly larger than the current root system. Bagging a plant after repotting is normally not needed, unless you have substantially disturbed the root system. Even if you had completely removed the root system (and rerooted the crown), it should only be necessary for about 4 weeks or

so. If rooted well (and your air isn't extremely dry, and yours isn't), the shock from being removed from the bag should only be temporary. It should adjust in a day. If it doesn't, return it to the bag to let it get better established.

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

Most of my violets are in bloom now and a few have "necks" that need to be taken care of. Do I wait until they stop blooming before I repot, or remove the blooms? My thought is that they need to use energy for new roots, not producing blooms.

As in the answer above, repot when they need it, whether or not they are in bloom. If you haven't waited too long, and the neck isn't too long, it shouldn't stop blooming as you won't need to disturb the root system very much. That said, it will help to remove blooms for the very reason you mention. This is what we do--after all, the idea is to give the plant a "fresh start" and get it growing again.

After receiving my episcia, it wilted the next day. I have it in a greenhouse where it is 72f degrees daytime and 57f degrees max at night.

Episcias are true, "tropical" plants, that like warmer temps and high humidity. Though some are more tolerant than others, as a general rule, they won't do well in the cool nighttime temperatures of your greenhouse. To be happy, they'd prefer temperatures no lower than mid 60's. Avoid cold, or drafty, windowsills in winter, or cold, dry, areas near the air-conditioner in the summer, as well. They love terrarium-like conditions for this reason, though they don't require it, and we don't grow ours this way.

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