

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

July 2019 - No. 65

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Our calendar:

July 23, 2019

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of July 29.

September 27-28, 2019.

Ohio State AVS Show.

Our next show, held at the beautiful Kingwood Center in Mansfield, OH. For more info:

www.osavs.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.

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
Saturdays by appointment.

What's New (or returning):



Begonia chlorosticha. A lovely, unusual, plant. Dark green, winged, leaves with pale green spots and edge. Limited number available.

Many more! This is just one of the new varieties that have been listed in the past month.

What's news:



Gesneriad Society Convention Show. This year's international gathering was held in Cincinnati, Ohio in early July. Lots of interesting and well grown plants could be seen in the show room. Always a good show to see, and sometimes acquire, the newest plants--some very

new to cultivation. Get to the sales room early!

Though we didn't bring any plants for exhibition (travelled by air), we did bring lots of material for the society sales room. A couple of our recent streptocarpus hybrids, such as 'Bristol's Lollipop' (above left) and 'Bristol's Turkey Tracks', were seen in the show, however. Will post more photos on our 'facebook' page when we have time to post them.

Inventory updates:

"Seller's choice" specials have been moved to a different page on the online shopping cart, called "[special offers](#)". Our past listings led to some confusion, as not all of the offers could be listed all of the time.

Sinningia inventory has just been updated and a good selection is now available. The same is true for many of the other gesneriads--aeschynanthus, alsobia, codonanthe, columnea, and nematanthus. We are currently propagating and grooming kohleria-- look for them to be relisted on the site in another month or two.

This month's questions:

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

My grandmother has one of your trailing violets. It has grown up and out of the pot, and all of its leaves are entirely out of the pot and hanging down the side. I don't believe she has repotted it since getting it some time ago. How do I go about this for her? Do I trim the neck down like you would for an overgrown violet?

By now, it certainly can be repotted into a larger pot. How she grows it out from that point, or its appearance, is up to her. Pot it into a larger pot based upon the size of the root ball--go one size up. From the size we shipped it, this will mean a 3" pot. There is no need to trim the neck, since trailers, by nature, spread and have stems. If the stems are unsightly, and you want to trim them back, you can do so. It might even give the plant a fuller look in the long run as it branches and fills out. Unlike nontrailing varieties, don't be afraid to prune or cut back your trailers, even removing the center, if needed.

As the trailer grows, and wants to spread, pot size and pruning will depend upon the appearance you want. If you want to have a cascading or "hanging" appearance. don't go to larger pots and simply let the branches grow over the pot sides. You'll need a good light source to grow them this way, since you'll need to provide light to the sides of the plant as well as the top. If you choose to grow them as a "ground cover" you can use a larger, but shallow, pot, and let the branches grow atop the soil surface. If needed, they can be pinned to the soil to encourage them to root as they grow. In either method, you can encourage more branching by strategic pinching and pruning.

I want to buy a light meter for my violets. How much light should it measure on the light scale for violets? I know I need bright light, but I don't have enough or not for my violets to bloom alot.

Light meters, especially the inexpensive ones people usually use, are notoriously inaccurate, so buyer beware. Since I'm not familiar with your particular meter, I can't say what reading on it would be recommended. If using artificial light, we provide about 4,000-4,500 lumens over a four foot shelf, minis and small plants about 12" below the lights, standards and larger plants about 18" below the lights, for 12-13 hours a day. Any bulbs or light source you use should have the lumens listed. Light color/warmth can be a consideration, but this is a more complicated, and less critical, discussion. Whether growing under artificial, or natural (window) light, the best measuring device will be your plants. Nice and green, but no flowers? Likely needs more light. Pale, tight growth, but plenty of blooms? Likely needs less. The best measuring device will be your plants if you know how to read them.

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