

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

January 2020 - No. 71

For best results, view in HTML



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Our calendar:

January 28, 2020

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of February 3.

Winter shipping!

Safe delivery is guaranteed when shipped by Express mail only and signed for upon delivery.

Free stuff and how to get it!

2020 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.

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 Icicle. Another of our new streptocarpus. A small growing variety with bright white, fluted, blooms often with a tinge of green on petal tips. An easy grower with long-lasting blooms. Limited number available at this time.

Much more! Check the website for all of the newest varieties.

What's News:

Our apologies!

Our website and shopping cart were down (or not functioning well) for about 18 hours from late January 9 through early the next morning. This was due to an update of our server's systems during that time that caused unexpected issues. Apologies to those who couldn't find us or who had difficulty completing their order online.



Construction update.

The "green room" is finished! This building replaces our glasshouse. Due to our high humidity environment, the walls and ceiling are made of "plastic", and the room is insulated in polyurethane foam. Not seen are floor to ceiling windows on the south side in which we can grow many of our hanging basket plants. We have erected plant stands in this space, and are presently installing lighting and waterproof shelving. We expect to be moving plants into this area within the next week or two. We can then return the remaining growing areas to their proper state (looking less like a construction site).

The weird, unusual, or charming:

We grow lots of plants, many of them simply because we like them. Many for their beauty, but some because they are just different. Of course "beauty" and "different" is in the eye of the beholder. We'd call this one unusual.



Pedilanthus tithymaloides variegated. Commonly known as the "zig-zag" plant, it is a member of the *euphorbia* family, native to the West Indies. Being, succulent, it is tolerant of neglect, and quite easy to grow.

What makes it unusual is its odd, "zig-zag" shape of its stem and branches. The fleshy stems have milky sap, and bend, or "zig" with each green and yellow to white variegated leaves, then "zag" at the next leaf. Leaves will often be tinged in red under brighter light. It will bear white flowers, though the attraction of this plant is its leaves and weird growth habit.

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

We grow ours both under lights as well as in a partly obstructed southwestern facing window. Care and environment is much the same as for our other plants, with the difference being that this plant is more tolerant of our occasional neglect. Our "personal" plant is many years old. When it gets a bit large or uncontrolled looking, we prune it back a bit and let it branch. Propagation is done from tip cuttings, which will readily root in moist soil.

This month's question:

I followed your instructions and restarted two AV two months ago. Both had long spiraled necks. One is 10 years old, and the other 4 years old. The older one was successful, rooted well and is going strong--the leaves are a lot bigger and shinier but hasn't started blooming. When will it? It's in a bright spot where it can receive morning sun.

The 4 year old, though, after the new roots came out, I left it covered for another week and uncovered it and it just didn't look healthy. So I uprooted it and noticed the new root was rotten. I left about 1.5" of the old stem that was buried in the soil and the bottom portion was rotten. I trimmed off the rotten part and repotted the plant again. This time, it seems to be doing OK. Was the rotting the result of keeping plant covered too long or was it because I left too much stem when restarting the first time?

Probably a bit of both, though it's more likely because too much of the stem was left when rerooted. When restarting plants, you don't need to leave much of the stem--just enough to give you something to press into the moist soil and stabilize the plant in the soil while it roots. The idea is to give your plant a fresh start, so leaving a lot of the old, woody, neck isn't necessary. If the old stem/neck is too old and woody, it will have a difficult time rooting, and might rot instead. Younger, more tender, growth will more readily root.

As for blooming, once your violet is well rooted and growing, and has developed a mature root system, it should bloom if there is sufficient light. Given that it's winter and days are short, and you are growing in natural light, this might be as simple as waiting for longer and brighter days.

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