

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

February 2020 - No. 72

For best results, view in HTML

(Some of) What's New:



'Like' us on Facebook!

Our calendar:

February 17.

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of February 24.

February 20-23.

CT Flower & Garden Show.

Held at the CT Convention Center in Hartford. Visit us at booths 802 and 804 (near entrance). More info at: ctflowershow.com

Winter shipping in effect.

Safe delivery guaranteed when shipped by *Express mail* only, when 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



EK Creamed Milk. Fully double, creamy white stars, blushed pink. Medium green foliage. Standard African violet. Limited number now available.

EK Treasured Dream. Double pink stars with white edging. Dark green foliage. Standard African violet. Limited number now available.

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

What's News:



Construction update.

The "green" room is (virtually) complete! Plant stands and lighting are in place and shelves are again full of plants. Still some work to do, though, as some plants have been neglected while the construction was taking place. Shown at left a view from the south side of the room, which doubles as one of our work areas. As you can see, it's snowy outside-- the white stuff you see is "some" of what we got during a recent winter storm. It's days like these when we are glad to be working inside, where it's warm and we're surrounded by plants.

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. This sinningia is both beautiful and unusual.



Sinningia glazioviana. A lovely sinningia species that we feel is underappreciated, given its ease of care and attractiveness. It has bright red, long, tubular, finger-length, hooded blooms, much like those found on some *columnnea*. Leaves are deep green, long and pointed like spears, soft, and covered in fine hairs, and are produced in pairs, alternately, along an upright central stem. Stems are a darker maroon, and add to the attractiveness of the plant.

The plant pictured is grown in an obstructed south facing window where the light is bright but not direct or intense. We also have many plants growing under florescent

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

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

lights with our African violets and other plants. Care and environment is the same as provided other plants of ours, though it prefers it a bit cooler and its feet wetter. We water from both the top and the bottom, and it does like to be well watered. If let go too dry, you'll notice brown tips on leaves. Not surprising, since we understand that this species can be found along riverbanks in Brazil with its tuber submerged (we haven't tried this).

It produces a large tuber, sometimes multiple, joined, tubers and can grow fairly tall if light is not bright enough or left unpruned. If it does grow tall and unsightly, trim it back to the top of the tuber. Don't worry, it will resprout, likely multiple stems if the tuber is mature. A tall plant can also be "rolled" by wrapping a long stem around the tuber (like a ball of yarn) then repotting with the tuber below the soil and the top of the stem exposed. Though tuberous, it doesn't readily go dormant and can be kept on-growing (and blooming) if cared for well.

This month's question:

I noticed several of my plants were getting hard leaves at the crown and they were stunted. Upon removing them from the pot, I noticed that the root system was undeveloped and with a magnifying glass saw small white bugs and the sides of the pots had some white cottony sections. I immediately did research and discovered that these are "mealy bugs". I threw out all those that looked this same way and treated the remaining plants with Marathon and am also using a fungicide via wick watering.

My question is this. I have several plant that look extremely healthy and are blooming well. I was shocked a day ago when I went to repot them and discovered that they also have these same bugs. Why are they not showing the same signs? Can I save them by removing the whole root system, repot, and seal in a bag? Or should I just throw everything away, and start over? Thankfully, I have three racks in different rooms and such, all my plant have not been infected.

If the plant is established and otherwise well cared for, they might not show obvious symptoms until things get much worse. Mealybugs can be lurking in a collection for some time unnoticed. Since mealybugs like to feed on tender roots, lack of vigor and a general "droopy" or dull appearance are typical symptoms. The "hard" leaves in the crown aren't necessarily telling, but the stunting and lack of growth is. Once you found the egg masses on the inside of the pot, you knew what the culprit was.

*Rerooting the plants is the best strategy. This way you are sure to discard all of the eggs in the soil. Remove all roots and soil, and wash the plant using mild dish soap and room temperature water (a "how to" lesson can be found in the [plant care pages](#) of our site). Using Marathon when you do this is an additional precaution (*see note below). Of course, discarding them is the only solution that would be 100% effective, but this isn't always an option and doesn't guarantee that there isn't more mealy somewhere in the collection that will appear later. After rerooting, keep a close eye on the plant to be sure it's again healthy and mealy-free.*

Get in the habit of looking for less than healthy plants. If you have plants on saucers, in trays, or on reservoirs (wick watering), you will usually see eggs (tiny white specks) in these when mealybugs are present. Look around the neck of the plant near the soil surface for egg masses. If you are wicking, avoid using common reservoirs, since this, or any form of shared space, is the easiest way for mealybugs to spread. It is also a good habit not to move plants around--that way, if you have a problem, it will be isolated to one spot and less likely to spread. And NEVER move plants in and out of doors. Once something goes outside, it stays there. Bringing it back inside means bringing problems in with it. It seems you've been doing most of the right things.

**Active ingredient is Imidacloprid and can be found in products sold under different names--Marathon, the dry, granular, form is most popular. It has some time-release properties, so can be used when repotting as a preventative. Imidacloprid also comes in liquid forms (used as a drench when watering) and can be found in a number of other pest control products (like flea and tick products for dogs and cats). As with all such products, take precautions and use as directed.*

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