

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

March 2020 - No. 73

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Our calendar:

March 31.

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

April 18.

AVGS of Rochester.

Our local society's annual display and sale. At the Solstice Senior living center at 55 Ayrault Rd. in Fairport, NY. Open 10-4 pm.

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

(Some of) What's New:



EK Story of Love. Fully double, large fuchsia stars with variable white borders. Variegated medium green and white foliage. Standard.

PT Can Dance. Double frilly pink blooms with green edges. Very dark, nearly black, wavy foliage with red backing. Very limited number now available.

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

What's News:



Connecticut Flower & Garden Show.

The recent show was a big success. Weather was good, crowds were large, and the event, as always, well run. If you live in the northeast, and haven't attended, you might consider it. An excellent show, our favorite.

The following week, we had a chance to attend (not sell at) the Philadelphia Flower Show. Another show well worth attending. We've had many ask why we don't also sell at this show. Very simply, it would be a huge undertaking and we don't have the manpower or time to do so at this time, especially so closely following the Connecticut show. We might rethink this in the future, if things change.

Inventory update.

Sinningias, have recently been updated, so there is again a full listing, at least of the miniature and small growing varieties.

While they last! We grew too many for the CT show! **Was \$7, now only \$3!**

Sinningia Amanda's Penny. Pinkish-orange blooms with creamy-white lower petals. Medium green foliage. Good blooming small, nearly mini.

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 "cute".



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

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



Peperomia minima. A darling little plant. Very tiny, thick, green veined silver, much smaller than fingernail-sized leaves, with bright red backs on bright red stems. This species is truly miniature and, like a similar species *P. rubella*, is much smaller than other *peperomia* that might be more common or familiar. This semisucculent provides color to a small container, terrarium, or miniature landscape and grows easily, and quickly, so prune it regularly to keep its cute appearance.

If not pruned, the stems will not be strong or stiff enough to support its weight and can look untidy. Regularly pruned, it can be kept bushy and pretty almost indefinitely. Care is very easy. It won't require or consume much water, though your goal is to keep soil moderately moist in very well draining, porous, soil. Moderately bright light, same as for African violets or similar plants. It will grow under low light, but growth will be leggy and less attractive. Propagation is very easy as tip cuttings will root very quickly and easily.

This month's questions

These were among a number of questions that all arrived to us in the last few days.

I am 91 years of age and always enjoyed having AVs, not knowing enough, I would buy a few and after a couple of years would get new ones. By accident, I came across your site. Thanks a million, absolutely useful. My question, I have six violets, bought six pots about 5" and 6" to transplant from 4" pots. Some of them have several shoots around the main stem. Do I have to remove babies and only plant the main stem. What happens if I pot them as they are? I have seen some at garden shops, they have 6" or 8" pots full of flowers, shoots and main stems together flowering.

*You can grow an African violet with multiple crowns or stems, but this is not the optimal method. The plant will shape better with only one crown, as the leaves will have a chance to lay flat and evenly around the pot, without that crowded appearance. Though a multicrowned plant will bloom, it will bloom **better** when grown single crowned. Those extra crowns, or "shoots" as you call them, began as "suckers" emerging from the leaf axils--the same place flower buds would otherwise appear. What this means is every sucker allowed on the plant is one less flower stalk. More of one means less of the other. By removing suckers, and not allowing extra crowns develop, your violets must find some other way of growing and reproducing--by blooming!*

You can separate the crowns, or shoots, and pot them individually in their own pots. Then get in the habit of removing suckers as they begin to appear. This will avoid you having to do this again. A 4" pot should be sufficient for violets grown in the home. Only the largest plants, or those grown for exhibition, will need pots larger than 5".

I have four "African violets". Two grow necks and need occasional repotting as described on your site. The other two don't grow necks. One is my mother's and is at least 12 years old, so I have only her word to identify it as an African violet. The other I bought from a garden center. Are there "neckless" varieties of African violets, or violet-like plants that can be mistaken for African violets?

*All African violets will produce a "neck" over time, some more quickly than others. Necks appear as the plant grows, upwards, and older leaves are removed as they age. An actively growing plant, certainly one that is 12 years old, will have produced a neck. Regular repotting doesn't stop this process, just "hides" it, by lowering the plant into the pot and covering with fresh soil. There are some plants that might have a "violet like" appearance, but won't show necks. One good example is *Petrocosmea*, a close relative of the African violet, which has similar blue blooms and grows round and flat as a violet would. In fact, they grow so round and so flat, that the neck, or central stem, seems not to exist at all. That said, I would be surprised to find these being grown most garden centers.*

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