

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

August 2020 - No. 78

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(Some of) What's Back : [Kohlerias!](#)

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Our calendar:

August 25, 2020 .

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of August 31.

Note to international customers:
Due to Covid-19, delays in transit on international orders have been more common.

All of our fall shows have been cancelled. If all goes well, we will hope to see everyone at a show this next spring.

Free stuff and how to get it!

2021 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



After a long absence, we have them available again. We grow a lot of them (nearly 100 varieties) and it was a big job catching up at getting plants ready to ship. We've listed a number at this time, including a limited number of new varieties, and will list many more as the grow a bit more in the next few weeks.

For those who aren't familiar with these plants, they are another member of the gesneriad family, related to African violets and many of the other plants we grow. They are among the easiest to grow and bloom, and most tolerant of neglect, of all blooming houseplants. They are rhizomatous--stems grow from a thick, scaly, root, meaning they can "come back from the dead" (resprout) if you've seemingly done them in. We grow them both under lights and in windows, in most any exposure and any season. They are tough plants.

Ideally, give them care like your violets--bright, but not intense, light and keep soil moist but not soggy nor dry. They are upright growers, which means they will look their best when pruned and allowed to branch for a fuller plant. With proper care, they will bloom nearly constantly once mature

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

What's News:

Shipping delays. Though most orders we ship continue to arrive within a few days, delays have been more common since this spring. This is simply the "new normal". The USPS, as are all delivery services, is dealing with a very large volume of packages with fewer transportation options and, often, staff shortages due to the coronavirus. **Please be patient!** Plants are packed well, and we continue to guarantee safe arrival of plants on all domestic orders, regardless of circumstances.

The weird, unusual, or charming:



Nautilocalyx pemphidius.

Another gesneriad, and one not commonly grown except by avid collectors. This little plant grows fairly small--ours grows not more than palm-sized, with pointed, very pebbled leaves that have the look of crocodile skin. Blooms are clear white and are dependably produced once mature.

Not a difficult plant, but it does prefer high humidity so does best under cover or in a terrarium. Provide it bright, but not intense, light. We grow ours under artificial lights with our other plants. It does prefer a very light, well draining, soil. Use lots of perlite in your soilless mix. A lighter soil will also allow you to keep it a bit on the moist side, which ours seems to prefer. The easiest way to propagate is by division, as it will

Our shop and glasshouse at:
7209 County Road 12
Naples, New York 14512

Sorry, our shop is closed to visitors at this time.

Place an order for pickup!

For those living locally, we are offering [pickup service](#). Save on shipping, and we'll have your plants waiting for you.

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

eventually produce suckers and spread. An excellent choice for a terrarium or enclosed container when looking for a different texture and bright blooms.

My plant "looks like this"



If your African violet looks like the one shown at left, it has a "sucker" that needs to be dealt with. The small pair of leaves appearing between the rows of leaves, from the axil, is a "sucker". Unless a trailing variety (or many Saintpaulia species), these should be removed as soon as they are visible and you are certain they are actually a flower bud.

Left on the plant, this small sucker will soon grow into another full plant attached to the original--you will have a two (or more) headed plant. Leaves on an African violet (other than trailers and some species) should grow flat, and be produced evenly around the stem to provide a circular shape. If suckers are left to grow, this can't be achieved. What's more, more suckers means less bloom. First, in the place this sucker is, could have been a flower bud. Also, plants have two means of reproducing--vegetatively (suckers) or sexually (flowers). Allow it to do one, and it will be less likely to do the other. Want more bloom? Remove those suckers!

This month's question

I purchased two violets from Wal-Mart because they were in pitiful shape, but the one's leaves are brown in the center. I'm not sure what to do with it. Do I cut those leaves off? Both violets have flowers and I've pinched off the dead ones, along with the dead leaves. Thing is, if I remove all of the dead leaves on this particular plant, there won't be anything left.

As a general rule, if leaves are dead, dying, or unattractive, they can be removed. When removing leaves, you want to work your way from the "bottom...up", i.e. remove the older, outside, leaves first. If the leaves are in the very center, removing them would stop the growth of the plant (this is the growing point). Removing the center leaves won't necessarily kill the plant, though. If it is otherwise healthy, it will then produce suckers, in and about the center (this is how "chimera" varieties are propagated, since they cannot be propagated true from leaf cuttings).

Once the center is gone, it will be awhile before your violet looks normal again. You can either allow one of these crowns/suckers to develop, removing the rest, or let them all develop and pot them up individually once they are large enough to comfortably do this.

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