

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

December 2020 - No. 82

For best results, view in HTML

(Some of) What's New:



'Like' us on Facebook!

Check the website for all of the newest varieties.

Our calendar:

December 18, 2020.

Ordering for Christmas? We must receive your order by 5 pm on the 18th. For arrival by Christmas, you must use Express mail.

Or... how about a [gift certificate](#)? Select delivery by email and we can send it within 24 hours.

December 29, 2020 .

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of January 4.

All of our shows have been cancelled thru Summer 2021. If all goes well, we will hope to see everyone at a show in 2022.

We continue to ship during winter, but safe delivery of orders guaranteed by [Express](#) mail only.

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.

What's News:



Remodeling of our shop and main growing area continues. Nearly all of the new stands have been built and lights installed. Most of the plants have been returned to their places on the stands.

We are now replacing the ceiling tile (again made from PVC/plastic) and dealing with some of the small problems that have accumulated over the last 30 years. The project should be completed within the next month, and we'll get busy filling all of the empty spaces with plants and preparing for spring.

Inventory update

Inventory has recently been updated for standard violets, streptocarpus, and begonias, so selections for these items should be better than the recent past. This will improve as we continue to "catch up" during the winter months....potting, potting, and more potting!

My plant "looks like this"



Looking closely at this young plant, you will see that its leaves are discolored in a couple of different ways. This may or may not be a sign of a problem. At far left is a view from above of the entire plant. Close up views of selected leaves also appear.

The photo in the middle shows a medium green leaf mottled with darker patches. This is normal for this particular variety (LE Arabesque) and is not a concern. Such darker patches, like "birthmarks" are a genetic trait of some varieties, and occurs most often for varieties with multicolored blooms. Though not a hard and fast rule, generally the more and darker the mottling, the darker will be the blooms--for example a white and pink multicolor will have more pink, or darker pink, when mottling is more intense. The underside of the leaves might also have reddish birthmarking, or mottling. So long as the texture of the leaves are normal (the leaf tissue is not soft and mushy or dry and hard), this kind of discoloration would not be a concern.

Contact us:

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Mon. thru Sat., 12-5 pm ET

Our shop and glasshouse at:
7209 County Road 12
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Sorry, our ship 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

The leaf shown at far right, however, displays a different kind of discoloration. In this case, damage from cold water being left on the leaf surface. Most of us have been told to "not get water on the leaves", and to water from the bottom to avoid this. This is only partly true--after all, "mother nature" waters everything from above! What damages the leaves is not the water, but the temperature of the water. If the water temperature is much colder (or much warmer) than the temperature of the leaf, damage can occur. For this reason, avoid leaving water on leaves on plants in cold, drafty, locations (which can chill the water) or exposed to direct sun (which can heat the water). In this case, the plant was watered with cold water when younger. Though marked it remains otherwise healthy, and has continued to grow and is now a mature leaf on the outer row of the plant. It can be removed at this point if desired.

This month's question

I have 'Apollo Pink'. My question is, do you notice that the blooms stay tucked under the leaves a bit more or is just me?

This variety does have somewhat shorter bloom stems, but not so short as to cause problems. Some varieties do need a little assistance in displaying their blooms in the best way possible. If you have the patience, you can gently guide them, as they emerge, through the openings between the leaves. Varieties with tightly growing leaves, normally a good thing as it produces good symmetry, can make this more of a challenge, especially if bloom stems are short to begin with.

Strong light can cause leaves grow more tightly and bloom stems to be shorter. If this is a problem among many plants in your collection, you can try reducing the intensity of the light, if possible. If it's just one plant, try moving it just a bit further from the light source--not too much, since too little light will mean fewer blooms. For at least some of the year in most climates, most window grown plants, due to inadequate light, have just the opposite problem--loose leaf growth and longer bloom stems. Your plant seems happy and blooming, so look at it as a good problem to have!

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