



16125 22 Mile Rd Macomb, MI 48044 586-247-5533 13790 W. Highland Rd. Hartland, MI 48353 248-714-5720

#H6

Growing African Violets

Steps for Success!



#1



#2

LIGHT

Insufficient light is one of the major reasons Violets do not bloom well. Violets must have 10 to 14 (16 is max) hours of bright light per day (no direct sun). You can enhance the light for certain violets by sitting them on mirror tiles as large or larger than the violet. This reflects the available light back to the violet. If adequate natural light is not available or desired, twin tube fluorescent lights are ideal. Place the tubes eight to ten inches above the foliage for mature standard plants, and six to eight inches for miniatures, leaves, and seedlings. Because violets process nutrients during the "resting phase" (i.e. darkness) they should also have 8 hours of darkness per day.

TEMPERATURE

70° - 75° Fahrenheit is usually ideal, although 60° - 85° Fahrenheit is tolerated for short periods of time.

HUMIDITY

40% - 50% relative humidity is usually ideal. The humidity near your plants can be raised by supporting the plants over water. Wick watering is ideal for this because the plant sits on top of a reservoir of water.

POTS

Use "clean" plastic or ceramic pots. Don't use a pot which is too large. Never move a plant to a larger pot until the roots fill the present pot. Violets tend to bloom most when they are slightly root bound.

SOIL

Violets need a light, airy soil mix that will not pack hard and allows for easy root penetration. Use #1 Espoma African Violet Soil.

FERTILIZER

Either lack of fertilizer or too infrequent feeding is one of the reasons for lack of blossoms. Use #2 Miracle Gro African Violet Fertilizer, Follow label rates.

WATER

Never use water that has been through a softener. Using distilled water all the time is not good either because it deprives the violet of trace minerals which would ordinarily be present in the water. Chlorine in the water might cause problems for the violet. Let the water stand overnight in an open container to let the chlorine evaporate out of the water. Bottled "spring water" is a good substitute if your tap water is not good. Use water which is room temperature (neither cold or warm.) Keep the violet "just moist", not wet. Never allow the plant to become completely dry.

GROOMING

Remove up to 3 leaves per month from the bottom row. Carefully bend the leaves to the side while gently pulling. The leaf stem will break away clean leaving no stub. This keeps all the leaves new and fresh and promotes a burst of new growth from the crown. Brush leaves with a natural bristle, soft brush to remove dust and dirt. Keep old blossoms picked off and remove the old bloom stalk completely when all blooms are finished.