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African Violet Society of America

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

January 23, 2017

Greetings!

Welcome to the African Violet Society of America's Weekly Growing Tip email. We hope you benefit from our experience and expertise!



AVSA National Convention 2014 -
Nashville

One of the Greatest Shows in Earth (Well...Potting Soil)!

It's an amazing production! Whether it's local or national, an [African violet show](#) is an exciting and inspiring event. Experienced and novice growers showcase their best plants, and the sight is truly beautiful. But the array of gorgeous flowers did not appear overnight. As with any play, movie or other spectacular, behind the smiles, ribbons, and plants full of bloom is something much more calculating: Plant preparation takes advance planning and, yes, a little bit of math for growers to arrive on show day with a bounty of blossoms.

Not everyone's growing conditions will be the same, and not all varieties have the same time-frame to bloom. But here are some general guidelines for taking the mystery out of the show-prep math:

Act I: Pre-Production Planning

Many growers keep ongoing records of each variety they grow, noting how long it takes for foliage to form and blossoms to fully open. As you move into the 13 or so weeks before a show, your records can help you nurture your plants to their show-best. Note special considerations, such as the lighting you use and how long the lights are on. Take pictures of your plants at the various stages of growth so you'll remember what they look like during their growth cycle.

Act II: Plot-Points and Other Necessities

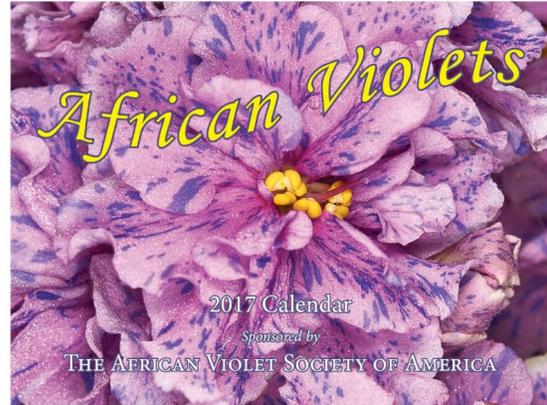
Specific show preparation calculations can begin once you know the date of the show and the varieties you wish to enter. Your decision about which and how many plants you plan to enter will be based on the plants in your collection and most especially on the Show Schedule, which is the official law of the show and lists the rules and classes of entries. A copy of the Show Schedule is available from the show's organizers. A sample Show Schedule can be seen by [clicking on this link](#).

Once you know the date of the show and the plants you wish to enter, you will set up a week-by-week action plan to get your plants ready. This guide indicates important milestones such as when to stop disbudding so varieties can form blossoms. A good example of a grow-to-show calendar, along with other tips, is included in [Pauline Bartholomew's book *Growing to Show*, available from the AVSA online store. \[African Violet\]\(#\)](#)

[Society of America \(AVSA\) affiliates](#) may provide members with a grow-to-show calendar adapted for their specific geographic areas.

Act III: Toward the Big Reveal

If you are relatively new to showing your African violets, you will undoubtedly have questions as you move closer to the big (show) day. Your local affiliate can provide you with valuable information and tips on making the most of your preparation time. And, with AVSA articles on [the basics of growing to show](#) and lists of past [Best in Show winners](#) for inspiration, you can tame your "opening day" jitters and enjoy one of the happiest aspects of growing African violets - Sharing your beautiful plants with the AV-growing world and beyond!



The AVSA 2017 Calendar Is Perfect for Show Planning!

You may [contact us](#) with your violet questions or comments at any time.

Please share this tip with anyone who might be interested and invite them to [sign up](#) for their own weekly email from the African Violet Society of America.

Sincerely,

Maureen Pratt
AVSA Membership & Promotion



News from the [African Violet Society of America](#)

The AVSA 2017 Convention and Show information, including the Registration Form and Show Schedule, is now available on the [AVSA website](#)! It's not too early to register - and begin your own show plant preparation!

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