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African Violet Society of America

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

April 4, 2016

Greetings!

Welcome to today's Growing Tip email from the [African Violet Society of America](#).

Can you find the Immature Leaves? **

(Hint: There are at least four shown in the photo at right.)

What makes a leaf "mature"? The definition of a mature leaf is that it is capable of producing a flower. The plant shown in the photos above has mature leaves, even though there is no flower present... yet. Take a close look. When leaves begin to mature, the color will usually deepen, the vein pattern which gives the leaf a quilted appearance will be more dramatic, and the leaves will grow in a more horizontal pattern. All of those center leaves will be able to produce a flower stem eventually if not today.



Immature leaves are pale green, less sturdy, and smaller than the more mature leaves growing near the middle of the crown.

Are immature leaves bad? Actually, baby leaves (as they are sometimes called) serve an important role in propagation. These leaves sprout up quickly and begin functioning to support the plant, but they will usually remain vegetative and never flower. Once the mature leaves come in, it is best to remove the baby leaves. This will stimulate the growth of the plant and cause the mature leaves to grow more compactly.

Grooming off baby leaves should be a routine part of growing. Check out the fine [article on grooming](#) written by Mary Schaeffer for the *African Violet Magazine* in 2014. If you grow for show, here are some additional [great tips on show grooming](#) from John Nabers found on the [Violets 101](#) page of the African Violet Society of America website.

** Answer: Thinking of a clock face, the outside leaves at 1:00, 3:00, 7:00 and 11:00 are all immature. The one at 5:00 probably qualifies too. And if your eye was very good, you might have seen the hiding baby leaf under the leaf at 9:00. Did you find all six? Now find them on your violet plant!

Do you know someone else who would like to receive the weekly growing tip from the African Violet Society of America? All interested persons are welcome to sign up on the "Join Our Mailing List!" icon below. Subscribers are not required to be members of AVSA.

Have a growing question? Feel free to contact us at the [AVSA Office!](#)

Sincerely,

Joyce Stork

News from the African Violet Society of America

The 2016 AVSA Convention and Show Early Bird cutoff date is fast approaching. In order to take advantage of the package deal, please have your registrations to the office by April 21, 2016. The convention information is posted on [the website](#). Please get your registration in as soon as possible. We hope to see all of you there!

For anyone wanting to sit together at the three main meals, your registrations have to be mailed together in the same envelope. There will be no exceptions. Anyone with special meal requests, please include those with your registrations.

If you have any questions, please call the office (844) 400-AVSA (2872) or [email](#).

Not a member of the African Violet Society of America? You are invited to [Join](#) today!

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