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## African Violet Society of America

### AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

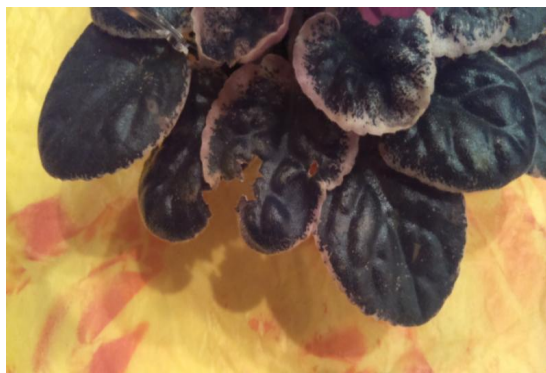
June 13, 2016

#### Greetings!

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

#### **Can you name the most common chewing pest of African violets reported in the USA?**

It's a nightmare. In fact it often happens in the dark. A perfectly grown African violet suddenly and mysteriously has irregular bite marks like the ones you see at right. Or buds and blossoms disappear overnight - gone with no trace. You may not find a trace of the pest unless you place traps specially designed to attract it.



See the chew marks on several leaves?

This pest is very common and will feed on many things. While many chewing pests are put off by hairy leaves, this pest is not. It will quite happily eat African violets if their preferred food source isn't available.

This leaf is from a special exhibit at the recent African Violet Society of America convention. Don't worry, the damage did not occur at the show. Rather the exhibitor was a student who knew exactly what pest was causing the damage in a classroom. I took a photo since it's rare that anyone will admit to having this pest in their home.

Here's one more [tool](#) from the AVSA website about this pest and it might even help you with other pest problems down the road.

Lots of clues... did you guess cockroaches? You would be right.

The best defense against cockroaches is to create a chemical barrier around the room or building, which is probably best done by a professional pest control company. There is little value in treating the violets themselves.

According to Dr. Charles Cole who wrote the book [Insect and Mite Pests of African Violets](#), there are few other insect pests who like to chew on our violets. My apologies to those of you who are squeamish about roaches!

***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

African Violet Society of America, Membership & Promotion

**News  
from  
the**

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Society of  
America](#)

The 2016 AVSA Convention DVD (full of photos of plants and memories) will be available for sale at the end of October. The cost will be \$15.00 (shipping included). They will be available for purchase through our [website store](#) once they become available. You can also call the office at 409-839-4725, [email your order](#), or send in a check or money order to 2375 North Street, Beaumont TX 77702.

We hope to see all of you next year in Orlando, FL!  
[Get it on your calendar now!](#)

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

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