

JOIN * LEARN * GROW

African Violet Society of America

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

September 5, 2016

Greetings!

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

Do you know what "Clackamas" means when we talk about African violets?

Look closely at this photo (at right) of "*Maas' Angela*." See anything unusual? It's lovely and it is an African violet. But those leaves are not your typical African violet leaves! This is clackamas foliage. It is among the rarest of all the [flower and leaf traits](#) seen in African violets.

See below for a closer look at the front and backside of another clackamas variety which has where you can see the long veins on the backside. Compare the leaves from one of



your own violets. You are likely to see shorter veins branching from the center line almost all the way up to the tip of the leaf. Your leaf is also more likely to have a scalloped edge and deeper quilting on the surface.

So where did that unusual name originate? The original hybrid was named "*Clackamas Rattler*" by Oppen Nurseries in Clackamas, Oregon, probably in the 1950's. It is believed that the cultivar was fancifully named after the train which regularly rattled through the town at night. The name stuck, although some others have more recently chosen to describe the trait as "watermelon" foliage instead. A keyword search on the [AVSA website](#) reveals several articles printed through the years in the [African Violet Magazine](#), the longest being on page 25 of the September 1969 issue. If you are interested, you may order [back issues](#) from the [AVSA store](#).

Anyone is welcome to [sign up for this growing tip](#) from the African Violet Society of America. Subscribers are not required to be members of AVSA. Please share it with your friends!

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

[African Violet
Society of
America](#)

The AVSA office will be closed for Labor Day, September 5. The office will reopen with normal hours to serve you on the following day.

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

[I Want to Receive the Weekly Email!](#)



Follow AVSA on Facebook and join the conversation!