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## African Violet Society of America

### AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

August 15, 2016

#### Greetings!

Welcome to AVSA's Weekly Growing Tip email. We hope you benefit from our experience and expertise!

#### Shh...New Violets in Process!

No, those aren't tumors (or tubers)! They're [seed pods](#) ripening on an African violet. Inside each of them are tiny seeds that just might become exciting new varieties of African violets!

The seed pods in the picture are the result of a process called [hybridization](#). The hybridizer chose two different African violet varieties to be the "parents." She placed pollen from one variety (the "father" plant) onto the tip of the pistil of the other, and these pods formed and grew on the "mother" plant. Then, the waiting begins!



Seed pods ripening on bloomstalks

It can take between 4-10 months for seed pods to mature. Gradually, they will wither and turn brown. When they are completely dry, the hybridizer will take them off of the plant and store them for a few weeks. Then, she will open them up, [sow](#) the seeds inside and wait for the seedlings to grow into blooming plants, which can take at least a few more months.

Not all plantlets turn out to be winning plants. One seed pod can contain more than 100 seeds! But that's part of the fun of hybridizing: You never know when the next gorgeous Best in Show violet will appear!

#### Want to Know More?

[African Violet Magazine](#), the official publication of the AVSA, contains a regular column by noted African violet geneticist Dr. Jeff Smith that helps hybridizers understand what might come from the crosses they select. A subscription to the magazine is included in your membership when you [join AVSA](#)!

Members can also get a [first look](#) at the new varieties introduced by commercial hybridizers - another great perk to joining AVSA!

***Do you have questions about growing violets? Respond to this email and let us know. You might find the answer featured in an upcoming Weekly Growing Tip.***

Thank you for your interest in "America's Favorite Houseplant!"

Sincerely,

Maureen Pratt  
AVSA Membership & Promotion Committee

## **AVSA Bargain!**

**Now ANYONE can purchase a 2-year AVSA membership and receive an extra issue of the African Violet Magazine.**

**YOU could get 13 issues for the price of 12!!**

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