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## African Violet Society of America

### AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

September 12, 2016

#### Greetings!

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



#### The Tomatoes Did It!

As harvest nears, our homes and violet collection sometimes experience a sudden invasion of pests. What are they and where did they come from? I blame the tomatoes!

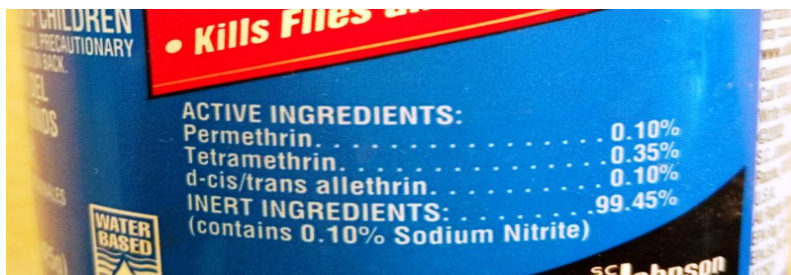
There's a good chance that your flying pest is the [common fruit fly](#) which is common in many places.

At the end of summer, fruit flies often choose injured fruits and vegetables in the garden as a place to lay eggs. Other pests, like white fly, aphids, and thrips also may enter on garden produce, especially on leafy items or flowers.

Remember that plants don't make pests. A violet which [has been properly protected](#) will not just spontaneously create a bug. Only bugs can make bugs. Don't throw out a violet because an outside pest has found its way into your house and is looking over the possibilities for a new home, especially not in September.

Next, identify the pest if you can. Sticky traps make it much easier to compare a flying pest to photos on the internet. Before you panic about your violet collection, check to see if your insect is one of the [few pests that really cause problems for African violets](#). Treat properly using multiple approaches- smashing is often best and most efficient.

If you feel the need to get out the spray can, look for an insecticide which contains either Neem oil or a Pyrethrin (compound ending with "thrin".) Either product is derived from a plant and is commonly permitted for use around people and animals. Always read package directions.



Finally, when bringing in fall garden products or plants, wipe or wash them. Use vegetables and fruit quickly or store outside. Keep violets isolated away from open doors and screened windows. If you wick water, it may be advisable to empty and wash the reservoirs now, since some pests need standing water to reproduce.

Those of us who "enjoy" winter weather will find that many of the pests will soon be gone. But I will miss those fresh tomatoes.

**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

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