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African Violet Society of America

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

October 3, 2016

Greetings!

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



Cold Water Damage - probably from splashing on leaves

(Photo Credit- [Courtesy L. Pierce] *Compendium of Flowering Potted Plant Diseases* 1995)

Getting It Straight- The Problems With Cold or Hot Water on African Violet Roots!

The photo to the left was featured in a February growing tip email titled [African Violet Goosebumps](#). On further discussion with the chairman of the AVSA Research Committee, Dr. Jeff Smith, I believe that I misspoke in identifying this as the effect of watering with cold water. Instead, it is much more likely that this was the result of very cold water being showered on the leaves. *My apologies for misguiding you!*

Here's a better example of damage caused by watering. Note the yellowish net-like pattern on one older leaf as well as some younger leaves. This leaf pattern is much more typical of the damage caused by a sudden change of temperature in the roots, such as using cold tap water during winter months.

But...surprise! This damage was the result of HOT water which the grower used from his rain barrel water sitting outside in the hot sun.

Dr. Smith explained the pattern of the damage this way: "The vascular system is really more like a net ... and has some ability to cross connect and transport water and nutrients to the entire plant." When the water temperature in the roots is suddenly changed, that vascular system is damaged, killing leaf cells in a uniquely netted pattern. He also noted the waviness of the younger center leaves. Without a healthy vascular system, parts of the leaf lack the ability to grow to its normal size or shape.



Damage to the Vascular System as a result of hot water on the roots

How can you avoid this damage? Always allow the tap water to sit out until it reaches room

temperature before watering your violets. Learn more about [Basic Care of African Violets](#) here.

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!](#)

Happy Growing!

Joyce Stork
African Violet Society of America, Membership & Promotion

**News
from
the
[African
Violet
Society of
America](#)**

A new AVSA club is forming in Berkeley, California. For more information visit the Facebook page of [Bay Area African Violet and Gesneriad Club](#). The club will launch in January.

Want to find an [African violet club](#) in your area to join?

Do you need to form an AVSA club in your area? Contact [Mel Grice](#), African Violet Society of America Affiliate Chairman for a packet of information and suggestions for finding AVSA members in your area.

Don't forget... if you are not a member of the African Violet Society of America, you are invited to [Join](#) today!

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