

JOIN * LEARN * GROW

African Violet Society of America

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

December 5, 2016

Greetings!

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

You are a rare bird... you study African violets!

In a world with a population of 7 billion people, there are only about ten thousand who are actively studying how to grow African violets. There are many more who grow them, but most are very casual growers who simply like the pretty colors or how easily they bloom in a home setting. You are different. You wouldn't be reading this now if you weren't pretty unusual.



Last week, the [growing tip was about moistening your potting mix](#) before using it. After that email went out, there was a lot of discussion. I was contacted by Reinhold Holtkamp Jr., the President of the [Optimara](#) Group of Herman Holtkamp Greenhouses Inc. Mr. Holtkamp wanted to discuss the addition of wetting agents to cause potting mix to absorb water more readily. Reinhold wrote: *"Our company has done many tests and have found that wetting agent is bad for the violet. I would not recommend any wetting agent for any African violet."* There are issues with surfactants, and it's good for you to have his insight. In research, I also found [a blog by Jerry Coleby-Williams](#) which raised many questions about the dangers to plants in general. I also found products including [Miracle Gro Moisture Control Potting Mix](#) which touts the advantages of using their product which contains a wetting agent. A Facebook grower recommended [Physan 20](#), which is an algacide, as an effective wetting agent with minimal side effects.

Now if just clicked on any of the links in the preceding paragraph, you are even rarer! You find discussing the fine points of growing very interesting. You want to read different opinions. In short, you are exactly the sort of person who benefits and enjoys belonging to the [African Violet Society of America](#).

One of the [purposes](#) of the [AVSA](#) is to provide a convenient association for growers... an association where we can discuss our African violet hobby without boring our relatives. AVSA is there with reliable information in our [publications](#), and to provide opportunities to meet at [convention](#), in [local clubs](#), and online. You will enjoy this association, whether you are intent on mastering the art of growing and showing, serious about research or genetics, or primarily love collecting them.

Come fly with us! Put a [membership in AVSA](#) on your Christmas wish list, or better yet, just

[join today](#). When you receive your first [African Violet Magazine](#) in the mail, you will be very glad that you did.

You may [contact us](#) with your violet questions or comments at any time.

Please share this tip with anyone who might be interested and invite them to [sign up](#) for their own weekly email from the African Violet Society of America.

Sincerely,

Joyce Stork
AVSA Membership & Promotion

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

The AVSA Office will have special hours for the holidays - closing Monday, December 19th through Tuesday, January 3rd. Plan ahead to be sure you get everything you need in time.

[The AVSA Store](#) offers many products which make great gifts for an African violet grower. Best gift of all? [A membership in the African Violet Society of America!](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)



Follow AVSA on Facebook and join the conversation!