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## African Violet Society of America

### AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

March 21, 2016

#### Greetings!

Welcome to today's Growing Tip about the parts of an African violet flower.

#### Look Closely at Your Flower!

Have you ever looked really closely at an African violet blossom? There's a lot to see!

Of course there's the beautiful color. This blossom also has what appear to be multiple layers of petals. If you were to tear this flower apart though, you would find that the petal is all connected. This is typical of all flowers in the greater family of [Gesneriads](#) which includes African violets.

You'll also see the yellow pollen sacs, more correctly called the "anthers." Look closely and you'll also see the pistil which is the projection right next to the anthers (in this photo it is a deep pink color just above the upper right hand sac.) A pollinator might deposit pollen on the very tip of the pistil (at the opening called the stigma) and the pollen would grow down into the ovary which is the base of the flower. That would cause the formation of a seed pod which would be a single chamber filled with many seeds (another common trait in the Gesneriad family.)

More detailed information can be found on the [AVSA website](#) about the [parts of the flower](#) and the correct terms to use. We won't give you a quiz afterward, but we hope you will see more than just pretty colors when you look closely at your flowers.



**Optimara Harlequin**

Photo Credit Joyce Stork

***Do you know someone else who would like to receive the weekly growing tip from the African Violet Society of America? All interested persons are welcome to sign up on the "Join Our Mailing List!" icon below. Subscribers are not required to be members of AVSA.***

Sincerely,

Joyce Stork  
AVSA Membership & Promotion

### News from the

#### Attention AVSA Judges

All Advanced, Senior, and Master Judges are eligible to judge

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the AVSA convention show in [Albuquerque](#). If you would like to judge, please complete [this form](#) and mail to: Bill Foster, AVSA Shows & Judges Chairman, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150 or [email](#) now. These must be postmarked or emailed no later than April 29, 2016. Please make sure your membership and judging status are current.

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