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African Violet Society of America

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

February 22, 2016

Greetings!

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

African violet roots need air!

The ideal root environment for violets is

- 1/3 potting mix
- 1/3 water
- **1/3 air**

Adding the air is the tricky part. Without air circulation, the roots will be more vulnerable to root rot diseases. A good potting mix will have lots of air pockets which is why we use chunky perlite in potting mix.

In the 1960's Cornell University developed the 1-1-1 potting mix recipe for African violets using equal parts of 1) Canadian sphagnum peat moss, 2) coarse perlite and 3) vermiculite. It is still favored by many growers today.

One other tip... **don't pack the soil!** When repotting, pile it in as loosely as possible so that air can circulate even when the potting mix is moist.



Chunks of white perlite in the mix add air pockets which allow roots to breathe.

Read more tips from [AVSA](#) to prevent the [death of violets from the supermarket](#).

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

Sincerely,

Joyce Stork
AVSA Membership & Promotion

News from

The 2016 AVSA Albuquerque Convention Information is now posted on the [AVSA website](#). Please get your registration in as soon as possible. We hope to see you there too!

**the
African
Violet
Society
of
America**

Do you want to sit with friends at the three main convention meals? Your registrations have to be mailed together in the same envelope. There will be no exceptions. Anyone with special meal requests, please include those with your registrations.

If you have any questions, please call the office (844) 400-AVSA (2872) or send an email to avsa@earthlink.

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