

JOIN * LEARN * GROW

African Violet Society of America

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

September 26, 2016

Greetings!

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

Today we have one plant, three views, and three problems to solve.

An African violet named "[Smooch Me](#)" came to me for a diagnosis 2 months ago. Take a look at the three different views below, and let's talk about some problems that concerned this long-time grower.

Problem One: The leaves are reaching up. With the exception of a few older leaves that are sagging, all of the new growth is going up. The plant has been off to the side of an east-facing window, sitting on a table in the corner of a nursing home room. A table lamp that sits nearby hasn't been turned on for several months.

Diagnosis: Not enough light. There is enough light to get this vigorous variety to bloom, but not enough to get the leaves to lay down horizontally as they should.

Solution: Turn the lamp on for several hours a day (up to 12) and use one of the corkscrew fluorescent bulbs or a warm LED bulb for higher quality light. [Basic Care Tips](#)



Problem Two: Let's take a closer look at the two leaves that have collapsed onto the table surface. Notice that the back one is collapsed and limp, while the front one has a bronze color. Both have a slightly glassy look.

Diagnosis: Heat damage. The temperatures in the room in the morning sometimes reached near 80° F when the summer sun shone in. The older leaves were sunburned and too warm.

Solution: Simply remove the damaged leaves as soon as they wilt. Keep the air a bit cooler or shade the window on hot days.

Problem Three: Here's an overhead view of the plant. The violet needed to be repotted with the crown set deeper into the pot, but which leaves should be removed? The center leaves are a dark rich green, but the outer leaves are lighter. How many of those outside leaves would you remove before repotting?

Solution: I took off twenty leaves. I also took off all of the flowers. My decision was made because I cut off all of the roots. Flowers and mature leaves will wilt during that kind of repotting. In a less drastic repotting, fewer leaves would be removed. [My repotting method](#)





One last look. Here's the same plant today. It has been under fluorescent lights, enclosed in plastic, and growing new roots for eight weeks and looking healthy. There's one flower bud peeking through the leaves and lots more forming. The owner has added more light and temperatures are now much cooler. No more problems!

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

News from the

[African
Violet
Society
of
America](#)

Not a member of the African Violet Society of America? You are invited to [Join](#) today!

Would you prefer to [print out an application](#) for membership and send a check by mail?

AVSA offers a special **2-Year deal** for members who join for two years at a time. You will receive one extra magazine at the end of your subscription... that's thirteen issues for the price of twelve! Even better, you don't have to renew as often and you won't miss a single issue. Just choose [2 years](#) and the additional issue will be applied automatically.

[I Want to Receive the Weekly Email!](#)



Follow AVSA on Facebook and join the conversation!