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African Violet Society of America

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

July 4, 2016

Greetings!

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

Red White and Blue Violets

If you live in the USA, it is the 4th of July, a holiday celebrating the beginning of our nation in 1776. In honor of that day, we are going to look at the curiosities of the colors of red, white, and blue in African violets.



Coral red is one of the most recessive colors in African violets. Before 1980 most violets described as "red" were actually a magenta (a deep purplish red.) A truer red appeared when hybrids such as '[Dyn-o-mite](#)' (seen in photo above) and '[Sedona](#)' came along. Even today though, violets with coral red genes are still fairly burgundy-colored. If you grow with fluorescent "grow lights" (which have a pinkish color) you may find that your red violets will appear a much brighter red.

Not all white violets are genetically white. Some bloom white as a result of chemistry within the plant that keeps the genetic color from developing as the bud matures. This chemistry is affected by the growing room temperature. '[Snuggles Innocence](#)' (see above) is one example of a variety which has mostly white flowers in some seasons but will blush more pink in summer months.

Violets are blue.... You would think so. It's true that some violets in the Viola family are bright blue, but that's because [viola flowers](#) have a different blue pigment than African violets (which are in the Gesneriad family and unrelated.) The African violet's pigment produces a violet-blue appearance, and to many eyes it looks a bit purplish as it does here with '[Little Prince](#)' (seen above.) Buyer beware of royal blue African violet photos... purple is a difficult color to capture in photography and the result may be misleading.

All of our African violet varieties featured in this message are found in the [Photo Gallery on the AVSA website](#). Browsing there is a good way to spend a almost any day!

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 to receive their own copy](#). Subscribers are not required to be members of AVSA.

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](#)

AVSA's Boyce Edens Research Fund has provided some funding to a project by Dr. Rachel Martin at the University of California Irvine studying the pigments in African violets. You can learn more about the project [here](#). Exhibitors at the Albuquerque AVSA convention contributed blossoms at the end of the show for this research.

Would you like access to information about all of the African violets in the AVSA registry? [First Class](#) is a highly functional Windows®-based computer program that allows you to quickly and accurately look up species and cultivar names and descriptions found in the Master List of Species and Cultivars. It includes over 8,000 photos and is an indispensable tool for serious collectors.

Available as [CD-ROM, download, or in Android version](#). An Apple-based version is also in progress and expected soon.

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

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