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African Violet Society of America

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

July 18, 2016

Greetings!

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

Rotten Violets!



A Facebook grower posted this photo and asked for help.
(Used by permission)

It happens to almost every grower. One day a violet looks healthy and the next day the leaves are droopy and wilted even though the potting mix is damp. The roots are in trouble. It often occurs when the soil is too wet, allowing roots to rot. That's exactly how my husband and I killed the first violet we owned. In those days that meant it would be dead in a few weeks, but since then we've learned a way to cure those rotten violet blues.

Among [African violet diseases](#), the root rot pathogens are the most common. Both Pythium and Phytophthora are found around the world. These pathogens thrive in soil conditions that are too wet, lack oxygen, and/or have high salt levels. When African violets are potted in very light potting mixes with lots of air spaces, the pathogens remain dormant. But when the mix becomes saturated, packed, or over-fertilized, the rot diseases thrive and the roots will become brown, matted, and fragile very quickly.

To cure root rot, the grower must act quickly, ideally on the day that the violet first shows symptoms of wilting leaves. The disease progresses fairly quickly through the roots, into the main stem of the plant. Once the rot reaches the newest leaves in the crown, the violet cannot be saved.

The technique of repotting to cure root rot is detailed but not difficult. [Directions are found on the AVSA website](#). You may also watch the video (at right) which demonstrates the process and shows you how to recognize the presence of the rot inside the main stem of the violet. (This video was made originally for the Facebook group called "[African Violet Nerds](#)" and you'll hear me use that term as I speak... I apologize if it sounds rude!) Follow the steps and you will have a renewed violet with fresh healthy roots in just a few weeks.



Video: How to cure root rot in African violets

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](#)

Attention AVSA Show Chairmen! A new reporting form has been created for Tally Time. You can now save postage by submitting reports online via the AVSA website [Tally Time page](#) or by [email](#) (please reference 'AVSA Tally Time' in subject line when emailing.) If you prefer, you still may continue to mail your Tally Time report to Susan Anderson at the address given on the inside cover of the *African Violet Magazine*. Show chairs should use one of the mentioned methods to submit show results to AVSA no later than November 20 of each year.

Tally Time is a summary of the African Violet varieties and species receiving the greatest number of awards in AVSA Standard Shows in the past year. The Tally Time results are published each March in the *African Violet Magazine* and on the AVSA website in the For Members area. See the [2015 Tally Time Report](#).

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

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