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African Violet Society of America

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

April 4, 2016

Greetings!

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

Is Your African Violet a Hybrid or a Species?

That's two different things.....

The violet in the top photo is a **species**. That means it was propagated from one of the wild African violets, some of which still may be found growing wild in Africa today. Species are precious and rarely found except in the collections of serious growers.

The species name, which will almost always include the genus name "Saintpaulia," is assigned by the scientific community. The name of the individual species is always written in lower case.

All of the species have single flowers. The flower colors are limited to shades of purple, violet blue, or white. The species often grow with many crowns. A number of other species are shown [AVSA Photo Gallery](#).

If it isn't a species, then your violet is a **hybrid** (like the one in the lower photo.) That just means that it has two parents because two violets (either species or hybrids) were cross-pollinated to make seed.

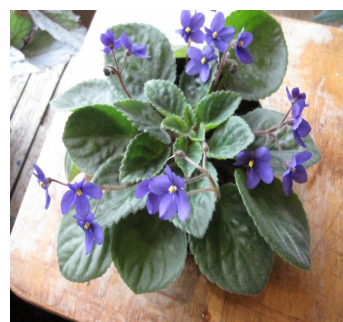
A hybrid name will be capitalized and is nearly always chosen by the hybridizer who made the cross. When a hybrid violet has no known name it is sometimes also called a "noid" because it has no identification.

As you might guess, the many colors found in the thousands of hybrid African violets seen today, either mutated from or were hidden in the genetics of the original species!

You can learn more at the [AVSA FAQ page](#) or by ordering [Understanding the African Violet Species](#) a comprehensive 2 DVD set by Dr. Jeff Smith and Dr. Barbara Pershing.

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.

Have a growing question? Feel free to contact us at the [AVSA Office!](#)



African violet **species**
Saintpaulia ionantha



African violet **hybrid**
"Annabelle"

Sincerely,

Joyce Stork

African Violet Society of America, Membership & Promotion

**News
from
the
African
Violet
Society
of
America**

ENTER THE CONTEST!!

There is a lot of excitement about the article contest that Pat Hancock devised to encourage our members to submit original articles for the *African Violet Magazine*.

Many AVSA Members have already been sending in submissions and are excited about being a possible winner. Each entry will have the words "Contest Entry" above the title as it appears in the AVM. The contest began on March 2, 2016, and will end on April 1, 2017.

The prizes for the top 3 winners are "New Introduction" leaves from AVSA Commercial Members and Hybridizers.

Please send all submissions or any questions to the AVM Editor, [Ruth Rumsey](#) or by mail to the AVSA office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont TX 77702.

Please call (844) 400-AVSA or [email the AVSA Office](#) with any questions you may have.

DON'T FORGET! We welcome you to join us in Albuquerque for the [2016 AVSA Convention!](#) Register by April 21 for best pricing.

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

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