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## African Violet Society of America

### AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

October 24, 2016

#### Greetings!

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

#### What's the Best Tool For Growing African Violets Well?

It's arguably the garbage can!

Before you start throwing tomatoes, I don't necessarily mean that you need to throw whole violets away. But you should be [removing fading flowers and leaves](#) as soon as they show any sign of aging, and throwing them away. [Grooming](#) is the great secret of growing.

Does the leaf have a crack or is it losing green color? It won't get better. Toggle it from side to side until it breaks cleanly from the main stem, and throw it away!

Is a leaf smaller than the leaves growing above it? It's actually keeping the plant from growing bigger. Throw it away!

Do you have a [secondary crown](#) (often called a sucker) growing between the leaves? Carefully prod it out and if you don't want to grow a new plant, throw it away!

Are the flowers dying? Is the last flower on the stem gone? Pull or trim it away from the main stem. Throw it away!

Does the violet [look sick](#), have [bugs](#), or worry you? If you don't know how to solve the problem quickly, throw it away!

It's time to repot. What should you do with the old soil? Throw it away! (And remove this waste quickly because disease and pests may thrive in dirty corners of plant rooms.)

So many violet problems may be solved with the garbage can. It really is the best tool (in my opinion!) if you want perfect violets.

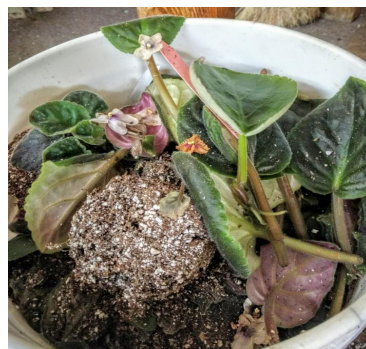
**Anyone is welcome to [sign up for this growing tip](#) from the African Violet Society of America. Subscribers are not required to be members of AVSA. Please share it with your friends!**

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

Sincerely,

Joyce Stork

African Violet Society of America, Membership & Promotion



Keep the garbage can handy and empty it immediately after every grooming session

**News  
from  
the**

**African  
Violet  
Society  
of  
America**

AVSA Affiliate insurance notices will be mailed soon. If you are you a member of an AVSA Affiliate club, please check your club's website information [here](#). If the contact name of the president is not up to date, please contact Mel Grice, Affiliate Chair by [email](#) or [online](#) **AND ALSO** the [AVSA Office](#).

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