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African Violet Society of America

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

May 16, 2016

Greetings!

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

Leaf Axils are Where the Magic Begins

Deep in the center of every African violet are the magic places called the "leaf axils." Axils are where each leaf meets the main stem of the plant.

Why is it magic? Because just above the leaf axil is a growth point where meristem tissue allows flower buds or suckers (secondary crowns of leaves) to form.

When the cultural [conditions are right](#) (good light, consistent moisture, and good nutrition, for example), it is likely that your violet will try to reproduce by forming either a bud or a sucker. In poorer conditions, your violet may become vegetative, in which case the axils produce no flowers or suckers.



The arrow points to the magic place called the leaf axil.
'Jack of Spades' (Kent Stork, hybridizer)

Some violets, like the one shown, have the genetic ability to produce two bud stems from the same axil. Some do it with regularity, while others will only "double stem" when [grown for show competitions](#). Double stemming is a valuable trait which may virtually cover a plant with flowers. It's worth searching out those varieties which bloom for show with a hundred or more flowers... they almost always have this wonderful genetic trait.

Wave the wand of good African violet culture and the leaf axils will work magic.

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!](#)

Sincerely,

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

The dates have been set for the 2017 [AVSA Convention](#) in Orlando, Florida: May 28-June 4. Save the date!

Attention AVSA Senior Judges! You may now apply for your renewal examination. See page 52 of the May/June issue of the *African Violet Magazine* for details.

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

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