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African Violet Society of America

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

May 23, 2016

Greetings!

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

By Request- the Scoop on Artificial Light Systems

For years the old fat T12 fluorescent tubes were the [standard for indoor light gardening](#). The rule was simple... 12 hours a day and 12 inches away. As the inefficient T12 lights are phased out, newer lighting choices have appeared.

T5 fluorescent tubes are the smallest, skinniest choice. Many growers have found that the light is too intense for African violets when used in traditional lighting set-ups. They may be used, but it is safer to keep a distance of 24"-36" between the leaves and the light, and to run the lights for only 5-8 hours a day. Doing so will reduce bleaching and tight center growth.

T8 tubes are in more common use by violet growers, who have found success when they position the tube about 12" above the leaves, but only run the lights for about 8 hours a day. T8 tubes fit into the same fixtures as T12 tubes. Wide spectrum, cool white, and warm white (alone or in combination) seem to produce the most desirable color and growing results.

The newest lighting choice on the market is LED lighting. It is still more expensive than fluorescent, but growers who have tried LED tubes and LED light strings are reporting good results. The rules aren't quite set, but it appears that 12 hours a day, 12 inches away may be a safe choice. Certainly, LED lights are less expensive to run and produce less heat than other choices.

The African Violet Society of America did a poll in 1993 and discovered that 84% of the members used fluorescent light to grow their violets. With a little adaptation, and [careful observation](#), we can use the new technologies successfully.

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,



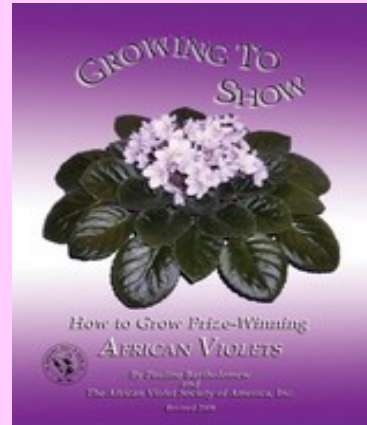
T12 or T8 or T5? Which fluorescent tube is best for African violets?

**News
from
the
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of
America**

**We are preparing this week for
the [2016 Albuquerque convention!](#)**

Hope to see you there!

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