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African Violet Society of America

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

December 12, 2016

Greetings!

Welcome to AVSA's Weekly Growing Tip email. We hope you benefit from our experience and expertise!



Wizard's Prankster

Photo Credit Patrick Delaney

Violet Sugar for the Holidays

Have you ever noticed that [African violet flowers](#) often sparkle? Old time violet growers sometimes call this sparkling quality "sugar." If you've not noticed it before, take a closer look at these photos shared by members of the Facebook group [African Violet Nerds](#).

Dr. Jeff Smith,
[AVSA](#) Research

Chair, and columnist for the [African Violet Magazine](#), has a more scientific explanation for us:

"The sparkle is due to the shape of the surface or epidermal cells of the petals. If the cells are dome shaped (imagine a surface like bubble wrap) they scatter the light better and give the sparkle. Most African violet flowers have the sparkle characteristic,



Optimara My Dream

Photo Credit Laurie Nelson

but some cultivars seem to just show off the trait a bit better, particularly white and pink flowers. A bright light source makes the trait stand out more too. That's why you'll often notice the sparkle on plants in sunlight or under a bright spot light. The sparkle may be captured somewhat unintentionally when using flash during photography.

The trait seems to be a genetic dominant so it is really pretty common in most African violet

flowers."

A little sugar makes African violets really special, and it's a no calorie treat for the holidays. Enjoy all you want!



Curlies Ocean Photo Credit
Melanie Mel



Inner Strength Photo Credit
Patsy Gilbert

Read more about the [Parts of the African Violet flower](#).

You may [contact us](#) with your violet questions or comments at any time.

Please share this tip with anyone who might be interested and invite them to [sign up](#) for their own weekly email from the African Violet Society of America.

Sincerely,

Joyce Stork
AVSA Membership & Promotion

News from the

[African Violet Society of America](#)



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Order your [2017 AVSA Wall Calendars](#) today!

Enjoy beautiful violets every day of the year! Only \$15 with shipping included.



Don't Miss the [2017 AVSA Convention](#) in Orlando, Florida- 1st weekend in June.

Stay tuned for more information and official forms to be released after the new year.

The AVSA Office will have special hours for the holidays - closing Monday, December 19th through Tuesday, January 3rd. Plan ahead to be sure you get everything you need in time.

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