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African Violet Society of America

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

January 30, 2017

Greetings!

Welcome to the African Violet Society of America's Weekly Growing Tip email. We hope you benefit from our experience and expertise!

Oldies but Goodies



Happy

Cricket registered
by Painesville
Town Country
AVS & R. Hollada
in 1984

Many of us have an old favorite in our violet collection. It may not be the fanciest flower, but it has won our heart. Today we're going to talk about those 'vintage violets'. Vintage is a term used loosely to describe an object or person who has been around for a long time and has proven worth. In the African Violet Society of America, however, the term 'vintage' is applied to any hybrid African violet which was released *at least 25 years ago* and still being grown today.



"Ellie Gardener" registered
by P. Harris in 1989

How can you know if your older hybrid was released 25 years ago? First of all, it must still have the original name assigned to it by its

hybridizer. Without the name, it lacks provenance and many growers would call it a "noid" (or no-identification). If it has a name, then these tips may help:

- 1) The AVSA [software program](#) called First Class (also available as [downloadable](#), in [android app](#) or in [Apple app](#)), lists many named varieties of African violets. All registered cultivars include the initial date of entry in the database.
- 2) Non-registered cultivars provide more challenges. First Class also lists the hybridizer, which can also establish the time period in which the cultivar might have been developed. Searching on hybridizer Max Maas, for example, you'll find 102 entries, the oldest date listed is 1965 and the most recent is 1988. It is reasonable to assume that any Max Maas hybrid which has no date listed fell in to that range and is now vintage.
- 3) Old copies of the [African Violet Magazine](#) may also be helpful. Photos, advertisements, and show results will all help establish the date when a cultivar was being grown.
- 4) Internet searches and questions asked in [Facebook](#) African violet groups are also effective ways to discover if a particular hybrid has earned the right to be called vintage.



"Tomahawk" registered
by K. Stork 1990

Preserving the vintage hybrids is important. Many growers find that these hybrids have vigor and excellent qualities not always found in more modern hybrids. They are a part of our history and often the foundation for new breeding. It's fun to grow the hybrids grown by our grandparents. And, if you wish to show yours off in all their glory, [AVSA affiliate shows](#) often offer classes and awards for vintage violets.



"White Madonna" released
by Eyerdorn (Granger
Gardens) in 1953

Would you like to buy vintage violets? There are several [AVSA commercial vendors](#) who feature vintage hybrids on their websites including [Fancy Bloomers](#) who carries all the

vintage varieties shown in our photos today. This includes [leaf cuttings](#) of many vintage hybrids including the "original ten" hybrids introduced before 1930.

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](#)

Be sure to check out the [Orlando 2017 Convention](#) registration information and watch the [video](#) about what it is like to attend! Register by April 20 and receive the Earlybird Discount!

***AVSA Board members**, please remember that your annual reports are due to the [AVSA Secretary](#) no later than March 1.*

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