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African Violet Society of America

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

February 20, 2017

Greetings!

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

What Was that Name Again?

Who hasn't been introduced and immediately forgotten the name? It's easy to do, especially with African violets. You are excited about having something new, or busy and in a hurry, or just a little absent-minded. The next thing you know, your new violet has no identification (it's a no-id) and it's often almost impossible to restore it. It requires discipline and determination to keep the proper name with each plant in your collection. Here are five tips on managing the names of your violets:



1. [Buy only named African violets](#). Each registered African violet is given a name by its hybridizer [following a specific set of rules](#). If you purchase one that is unlabeled, you might be able to guess at its name, but you can never be sure. It will always be a no-id. When you buy from a reliable source, you should have a guarantee that they are correctly named and labeled. Down the road, when you want to show, share or sell your plants, you will have the correct names in place.
2. [Label your violets with their correct name](#) whenever you transplant or propagate. If possible, write the names on the pots in permanent ink. Labels can be misplaced and ink can fade. Once the pots are full of potting mix and your hands are dirty, it is easy to forget, so do this task first. Don't make this [rookie mistake](#) and send your plants to the no-id pile. You may also wish to maintain a simple growing diary listing which varieties you transplanted or propagated that day to refresh your memory later when you realize your error.
3. *Verify the name* in [First Class](#) (the software database maintained by AVSA to list many existing hybrids). Check that the hybrid name matches the description listed (and perhaps compare yours to any available photos shown there.) Make sure the spelling is correct. If you don't find your variety there, you may want to contact the seller and/or check other suppliers online for descriptions.
4. If the name is spelled in a foreign language, *you must keep the foreign spelling* as the name. Translations are unreliable and not considered to be official. You may include a translated name on the tag, but don't omit the name in the original language.
5. *Never abbreviate* or leave off part of the name. Many new African violet hybrids come with a prefix name or code that identifies the company or hybridizer who developed the plant. Ignoring the prefix can cause big problems if several hybridizers are using the same main word. Here's just one example of how different three plants with very similar names can be!



'Silver Modesty' hybridized by Champion in 1983



'Optimara Modesty' hybridized by Holtkamp in 1995



'Modesty' hybridized by Boone in 1983

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](#)

Do you know a college student who is majoring in a horticulture field? Share this information about the [AVSA Scholarship program](#). Hurry! Deadline to apply is March 1!

Who doesn't love a bargain?

Beginning 8/1/14, **all** new, returning, and current AVSA members have the option to purchase a two-year membership AND receive one extra issue of the outstanding **African Violet Magazine** added at the end of your subscription.

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